

Mammon or Messiah research

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Richard K. Moore: Towards a New World Social Order

Secular Prophets: Indicant 11

Prognosis 2012: Towards a New World Social Order

By Richard K. Moore [article link](#) [article link](#)

May 13, 2010 | Global Research February 27, 2010

When the Industrial Revolution began in Britain, in the late 1700s, there was lots of money to be made by investing in factories and mills, by opening up new markets, and by gaining control of sources of raw materials. The folks who had the most money to invest, however, were not so much in Britain but more in Holland. Holland was the leading Western power in the 1600s, and its bankers were the leading capitalists. In pursuit of profit, Dutch capital flowed to the British stock market, and thus the Dutch funded the rise of Britain, who subsequently eclipsed Holland both economically and geopolitically.

In this way British industrialism came to be dominated by wealthy investors, and capitalism became the dominant economic system. This led to a major social transformation. Britain had been essentially an aristocratic society, dominated by landholding families. As capitalism became dominant economically, capitalists became dominant politically. Tax structures and import-export policies were gradually changed to favor investors over landowners.

It was no longer economically viable to simply maintain an estate in the countryside: one needed to develop it, turn it to more productive use. Victorian dramas are filled with stories of aristocratic families who fall on hard times, and are forced to sell off their properties. For dramatic purposes, this decline is typically attributed to a failure in some character, a weak eldest son perhaps. But in fact the decline of aristocracy was part of a larger social transformation brought on by the rise of capitalism.

The business of the capitalist is the management of capital, and this management is generally handled through the mediation of banks and brokerage houses. It should not be surprising that investment bankers came to occupy the top of the hierarchy of capitalist wealth and power. And in fact, there are a handful of banking families, including the Rothschilds and the Rockefellers, who have come to dominate economic and political affairs in the Western world.

Unlike aristocrats, capitalists are not tied to a place, or to the maintenance of a place. Capital is disloyal and mobile – it flows to where the most growth can be found, as it flowed from Holland to Britain, then from Britain to the USA, and most recently from everywhere to China. Just as a copper mine might be exploited and then abandoned, so under capitalism a whole nation can be exploited and then abandoned, as we see in the rusting industrial areas of America and Britain.

This detachment from place leads to a different kind of geopolitics under capitalism, as compared to aristocracy. A king goes to war when he sees an advantage to his nation in doing so. Historians can 'explain' the wars of pre-capitalist days, in terms of the aggrandizement of monarchs and nations.

A capitalist stirs up a war in order to make profits, and in fact our elite banking families have financed both sides of most military conflicts since at least World War 1. Hence historians have a hard time 'explaining' World War 1 in terms of national motivations and objectives.

In pre-capitalist days warfare was like chess, each side trying to win. Under capitalism warfare is more like a casino, where the players battle it out as long as they can get credit for more chips, and the real winner always turns out to be the house – the bankers who finance the war and decide who will be the last man standing. Not only are wars the most profitable of all capitalist ventures, but by choosing the winners, and managing the reconstruction, the elite banking families are able, over time, to tune the geopolitical configuration to suit their own interests.

Nations and populations are but pawns in their games. Millions die in wars, infrastructures are destroyed, and while the world mourns, the bankers are counting their winnings and making plans for their postwar reconstruction investments.

From their position of power, as the financiers of governments, the banking elite have over time perfected their methods of control. Staying always behind the scenes, they pull the strings controlling the media, the political parties, the intelligence agencies, the stock markets, and the offices of government. And perhaps their greatest lever of power is their control over currencies. By means of their central-bank scam, they engineer boom and bust cycles, and they print money from nothing and then loan it at interest to governments. The power of the banking elites is both absolute and subtle...

"Some of the biggest men in the United States are afraid of something. They know there is a power somewhere, so organised, so subtle, so watchful, so interlocked, so complete, so pervasive that they had better not speak above their breath when they speak in condemnation of it." -- President Woodrow Wilson

The end of growth – capitalists vs. capitalism

It was always inevitable, on a finite planet, that there would be a limit to economic growth. Industrialization has enabled us to rush headlong toward that limit over the past two centuries. Production has become ever more efficient, markets have become ever more global, and finally we have reached the point where the paradigm of perpetual growth can no longer be maintained.

Indeed, that point was actually reached by about 1970. Since then capital has not so much sought growth through increased production, but rather by extracting greater returns from relatively flat production levels. Hence globalization, which moved production to low-waged areas, providing greater profit margins. Hence privatization, which transfers revenue streams to investors that formerly went to national treasuries. Hence derivative and currency markets, which create the electronic illusion of economic growth, without actually producing anything in the real world.

If one studies the collapse of civilizations, one learns that failure-to-adapt is fatal. Continuing on the path of pursuing growth would be such a failure to adapt. And if one reads the financial pages these days, one finds that it is full of doomsayers. We read that the Eurozone is doomed, and Greece is just the first casualty. We read that stimulus packages are not working, unemployment is increasing, the dollar is in deep trouble, growth continues to stagnate, business real estate will be the next bubble to burst, etc. It is easy to get the impression that capitalism is failing to adapt, and that our societies are in danger of collapsing into chaos.

Such an impression would be partly right and partly wrong. In order to understand the real situation we need to make a clear distinction between the capitalist elite and capitalism itself. Capitalism is an economic system driven by growth; the capitalist elite are the folks who have managed to gain control of the Western world while capitalism has operated over the past two centuries. The capitalist system is past its sell-by date, the banking elite are well aware of that fact – and they are adapting.

Capitalism is a vehicle that helped bring the bankers to absolute power, but they have no more loyalty to that system than they have to place, or to anything or anyone else. As mentioned earlier, they think on a global scale, with nations and populations as pawns. They define what money is and they issue it, just like the banker in a game of Monopoly. They can also make up a new game with a new kind of money. They have long outgrown any need to rely on any particular economic system in order to maintain their power. Capitalism was handy in an era of rapid growth. For an era of non-growth, a different game is being prepared.

Thus, capitalism has not been allowed to die a natural death. First it was put on a life-support system, as mentioned above, with globalization, privatization, derivative markets, etc. Then it was injected with a euthanasia death-drug, in the form of toxic derivatives. And when the planned collapse occurred, rather than industrial capitalism being bailed out, the elite bankers were bailed out. It's not that the banks were too big to fail, rather the bankers were too politically powerful to fail. They made governments an offer they couldn't refuse.

The outcome of the trillion-dollar bailouts was easily predictable, although you wouldn't know that from reading the financial pages. National budgets were already stretched, and they certainly did not have reserves available to service the bailouts. Thus the bailouts amounted to nothing more than the taking on of immense new debts by governments. In order to fulfill the bailout commitments, the money would need to be borrowed from the same financial institutions that were being bailed out.

With the bailouts, Western governments delivered their nations in hock to the bankers. The governments are now in perpetual debt bondage to the bankers. Rather than the banks going into receivership, governments are now in receivership. Obama's cabinet and advisors are nearly all from Wall Street; they are in the White House so they can keep close watch over their new acquisition, the once sovereign USA. Perhaps they will soon be presiding over its liquidation.

The bankers are now in control of national budgets. They say what can be funded and what can't. When it comes to financing their wars and weapons production, no limits are set. When it comes to public services, then we are told deficits must be held in check. The situation was expressed very well by Brian Cowan, Ireland's government chief. In the very same week that Ireland pledged 200 billion Euro to bailout the banks, he was being asked why he was cutting a few million Euro off of critical service budgets. He replied, "I'm sorry, but the funds just aren't there". Of course they're not there! The treasury was given away. The cupboard is bare.

As we might expect, the highest priority for budgets is servicing the debt to the banks. Just as most of the third world is in debt slavery to the IMF, so the whole West is now in debt slavery to its own central banks. Greece is the harbinger of what is to happen everywhere.

The carbon economy – controlling consumption

In a non-growth economy, the mechanisms of production will become relatively static. Instead of corporations competing to innovate, we'll have production bureaucracies. They'll be semi-state, semi-private bureaucracies, concerned about budgets and quotas rather than growth, somewhat along the lines of the Soviet model. Such an environment is not driven by a need for growth capital, and it does not enable a profitable game of Monopoly.

We can already see steps being taken to shift the corporate model towards the bureaucratic model, through increased government intervention in economic affairs. With the Wall Street bailouts, the forced restructuring of General Motors, the call for centralized micromanagement of banking and industry, and the mandating of health insurance coverage, the government is saying that the market is to be superseded by government directives. Not that we should bemoan the demise of exploitive capitalism, but before celebrating we need to understand what it is being replaced with.

In an era of capitalism and growth, the focus of the game has been on the production side of the economy. The game was aimed at controlling the means of growth: access to capital. The growth-engine of capitalism created the demand for capital; the bankers controlled the supply. Taxes were mostly based on income, again related to the production side of the economy.

In an era of non-growth, the focus of the game will be on the consumption side of the economy. The game will be aimed at controlling the necessities of life: access to food and energy. Population creates the demand for the necessities of life; the bankers intend to control the supply. Taxes will be mostly based on consumption, particularly of energy. That's what the global warming scare is all about, with its carbon taxes and carbon credits.

Already in Britain there is talk of carbon quotas, like gasoline rationing in wartime. It's not just that you'll pay taxes on energy, but the amount of energy you can consume will be determined by government directive. Carbon credits will be issued to you, which you can use for driving, for heating, or on rare occasions for air travel. Also in Britain, the highways are being wired so that they can track how many miles you drive, tax you accordingly, and penalize you if you travel over your limit. We can expect these kinds of things to spread throughout the West, as it's the same international bankers who are in charge everywhere.

In terms of propaganda, this control over consumption is being sold as a solution to global warming and peak oil. The propaganda campaign has been very successful, and the whole environmental movement has been captured by it. In Copenhagen, demonstrators confronted the police, carrying signs in support of carbon taxes and carbon credits. But in fact the carbon regime has nothing to do with climate or with sustainability. It is all about micromanaging every aspect of our lives, as well as every aspect of the economy.

If the folks who are running things actually cared about sustainability, they'd be investing in efficient mass transit, and they'd be shifting agriculture from petroleum-intensive, water-intensive methods to sustainable methods. Instead they are mandating biofuels and selling us electric cars, which are no more sustainable or carbon-efficient than standard cars. Indeed, the real purpose behind biofuels is genocide. With food prices linked to energy prices, and agriculture land being converted from food production to fuel production, the result can only be a massive increase in third-world starvation. Depopulation has long been a stated goal in elite circles, and the Rockefeller dynasty has frequently been involved in eugenics projects of various kinds.

'The War on Terrorism' – preparing the way for the transition

The so-called War on Terrorism has two parts. The first part is a pretext for arbitrary abuse of citizen's rights, whenever Homeland Security claims the action is necessary for security reasons. The second part is a pretext for US military aggression anywhere in the world, whenever the White House claims that Al Qaeda is active there.

I emphasized the word 'claims' above, because the terrorism pretext is being used to justify arbitrary powers, both domestically and globally. No hard evidence need be presented to Congress, the UN, or anyone else, before some nation is invaded, someone is kidnapped and tortured as a 'terrorist suspect', or some new invasive security measure is implemented. When powers are arbitrary, then we are no longer living under the rule of law, neither domestically nor internationally. We are living under the rule of men, as you would expect in a dictatorship, or in an old-fashioned kingdom or empire.

Part 1: Preparing the way for a new social order

In a very real sense, the terrorism pretext is being used to undo everything that The Enlightenment and the republication revolutions achieved two centuries ago. The very heart of the Bill of Rights – due process – has been abandoned. The gulag, the concentration camp, and the secret arrest in the night – these we have always associated with fascist and communist dictatorships – and now they are not only functioning under US jurisdiction, but being justified publicly by the President himself.

Is there really a terrorist threat to the homeland, and would these measures be a sensible response to such a threat? People are strongly divided in their answers to these questions. Quite a bit of hard forensic evidence has come to light, including links to intelligence agencies, and my own view is that most of the dramatic 'terrorist' events in the US, UK, and Europe have been covert false-flag operations.

From an historical perspective this would not be at all surprising. Such operations have been standard practice – *modus operandi* – in many nations, though we usually don't get proof until years later. For example, every war the US has been involved in has had its own phony Gulf of Tonkin Incident, or its Weapons of Mass Destruction scam, in one form or another. It's a formula that works. Instant mobilization of public opinion, prompt passage without debate of enabling resolutions and legislation. Why would the War on Terrorism be any different?

As regards motive: while Muslims have only suffered as a result of these dramatic events, our elite bankers have been able to create a police-state infrastructure that can be used to deal with any foreseeable popular resistance or civic chaos that might emerge as they prepare the way for their post-capitalist future.

With the collapse, the bailouts, and the total failure to pursue any kind of effective recovery strategy, the signals are very clear: the system will be allowed to collapse totally, thus clearing the ground for a pre-architected 'solution'. Ground Zero can be seen as a metaphor, with the capitalist economy as the Twin Towers. And the toxic derivatives illustrate the fact that the collapse is actually a controlled demolition.

It seems to me inevitable, given the many signals, that martial law will be part of the transition process, allegedly to deal with the problems of economic collapse. Perhaps a collapse in the food-supply chain, due to a collapse in the energy-supply chain. The US emergency responses in New Orleans and again in Haiti give us more signals, actual test trials, of what kind of 'emergency response' we can expect.

First and foremost comes the security of the occupation forces. Those suffering in the emergency are treated more like insurgents than victims in need of help. In the case of Haiti, the US response can only be described as an intentional genocide project. When people are pinned under rubble in an earthquake, the first 48 hours, and 72 hours, are absolutely critical points, as regards survival rates. When the US military systematically blocked incoming aid for those critical hours, turning back doctors and emergency teams, they sealed the fate of many thousands who could have been saved.

One can imagine many nightmare scenarios, given these various signals, these ominous signs. World Wars 1 and 2 were nightmares that really happened, with millions dying, and these same banking dynasties orchestrated those scenarios and then covered their tracks. We must also keep in mind the Shock Doctrine, where catastrophe is seen as opportunity – when 'things can be done that otherwise could not be accomplished'. We are still being impacted by the shock waves that were sent out on 9/11, and again when the financial system collapsed. And the really big shock, the general collapse of society, is yet to come. The ultimate version of the Shock Doctrine: 'If the collapse is total, we can accomplish any damned thing we want to accomplish'.

I won't venture a guess about how this transition process will play out, but I do expect that it will be a nightmare of one description or another. Already the growing homeless population is suffering a nightmare, by any civilized standards. One day you're living in a home whose value is going up, commuting to a good job, and the next thing you know your family is out on the streets. That's a nightmare. The transition time will be a difficult time, but it will be a transition, it will be temporary, like a war. And like a war, it will enable social and economic reconstruction in the aftermath.

Consider how Japan and Germany were socially and politically transformed by the postwar reconstruction process. Those were exercises in social engineering, as were the preceding transformations under Mussolini and Hitler. Although the outcomes were quite different, in each case a total collapse / defeat was the preamble to reconstruction. A total collapse of the capitalist economy is simply the application of a proven formula. The second part of the formula will be some new social order, or perhaps some old social order, or some mixture. Something appropriate to a non-growth, command economy.

That's part 1 of the War on Terrorism: it has enabled the creation of the police-state infrastructures required to deal with the collapse of society, and to provide security for the reconstruction process.

Part 2: Preparing the way for global domination

Part 2 of the War on Terrorism is about the geopolitical dimensions of a non-growth-based global economy. Earlier I suggested that geopolitics was different under capitalism, than it was under sovereign monarchs. The whole dynamic was different, and outcomes were weighed on a different scale. Similarly, many things will change in a shift from chaotic, growth-oriented capitalism, to a centralized, micromanaged, economic regime.

Consider, for example, the significance of control over oil reserves. In a growth economy, profits were the prize, and controlling the markets and the distribution channels amounted to holding a winning hand in the game. The local dictators could manage things as they pleased, and take their cut of oil revenues, as long as they honored their contracts with the oil majors, who were happy to sell to the highest bidders.

In a non-growth economy, where the focus is on direct control over the supply and distributions of resources, it becomes necessary to secure, in the military sense, the sources of petroleum, and the routes for its distribution. It is no longer sufficient to merely profit from unbridled operations. Securing of the sources, and directly allocating the distribution, is the foundation for micromanaging the non-growth economy. This applies to other critical resources as well, such as uranium, and the rare minerals needed by the 'defense' and electronics industries.

In fact we are in the midst of a resource-grab war, with China and Russia making long-term energy deals with Iran and Venezuela, China buying up agricultural land in Africa, Washington making long-term deals for Brazilian biofuels, and there are many other examples. In many ways imperialism is reverting to colonial days, when direct administration was the model, rather than the capitalist model: profiting from corporate investments under dictators who suppress their populations.

There is a natural reversion to the dynamics of the 'good old days of empire' when the Great Powers of Europe focused their economic activity within their individual spheres of influence. Everyone knows that global resource limits are being reached, partly from population pressures, and partly from resource-exploitation practices. For this reason alone, we have the peaceful part of the resource-grab war.

In Iraq, Afghanistan, and now in Pakistan and Yemen, the US, with NATO support, is playing a very non-peaceful hand in the resource-grab game. It's the hand of a bully, 'I have the biggest gun, so I'll take what I want'. These aggressive actions are very provocative to Russia and China, and threatening to their vital economic interests. An attack on Iran would be more than a provocation, it would be a direct slap in the face, a challenge: 'Fight now or resign yourself to being subdued piecemeal'.

In addition to all this petroleum grabbing, the US has been surrounding Russia and China with military bases, and has recently accelerated the installations of anti-missile systems on their borders, over the strong objections of Russia and China. The US is being intentionally provocative, and it is threatening vital interests of these potential adversaries.

Alliances are being formed in response, on a bilateral basis, and in the form of the SCO. China and Russia are very close in their military cooperation, and technology sharing. Their strategic planning is based on the expectation of a US attack, and their strategic response is based on the principle of asymmetric warfare. For example, a million dollar missile capable of taking out a multi-billion dollar aircraft carrier. Or perhaps a handful of missiles capable of disabling the Pentagon's command-and-control satellite systems.

Meanwhile the US is spending astronomical sums developing a first-strike capability, with space-based weapons systems, control-of-theater capability, forward-based 'tactical' nukes, etc. The new anti-missile systems are an important part of a first-strike strategy, reducing the ability of Russia or China to retaliate. These systems are more than just provocative. They are the modern equivalent of marching your armies up to your adversary's border.

If there is a nuclear exchange between the major powers, historians will cite all of these things I've mentioned as 'obvious signs' that war was coming. Parallels would be drawn to the pre-World War 1 scenario, when Germany was eclipsing Britain economically, as China is eclipsing the US now. In both cases a 'desperate attempt to maintain hegemony' would be seen as the cause of the war.

There may or may not be a World War 3, but all of these preparations make it clear that our banking elite intend to preside over a global system, by hook or by crook. If they wanted a peaceful arrangement, a splitting of the third-world pie, so to speak, it could be easily arranged at any time, along with substantial nuclear disarmament. China and Russia would like to see a stable, multi-polar world; it is only our elite bankers who are obsessed with world domination.

It is possible that nuclear war is a 'desired outcome', accomplishing depopulation, and making the collapse even more total. Or perhaps China and Russia will be given an offer they can't refuse: 'Surrender your economic sovereignty to our global system, or face the consequences'.

One way or another, the elite bankers, the masters of the universe, intend to preside over a micromanaged global system. The collapse project is now well underway, and the 'surround your enemy' project seems to be more or less completed. From a strategic perspective, there will be some trigger point, some stage in the economic collapse scenario, when geopolitical confrontation is judged to be most advantageous. It's a multi-dimensional chess board, and with the stakes so high, you can rest assured that the timing of the various moves will be carefully coordinated. And from the overall shape of the board, we seem to be nearing the endgame.

Prognosis 2012 – a Neo Dark Age

2012 might not be the exact year, but it's difficult to see the endgame lasting much beyond that, and the masters of the universe love symbolism, as with 911 (both in Chile and in Manhattan), KLA 007, and others. 2012 is loaded with symbolism, eg. the Mayan Calendar, and the Internet is buzzing with various 2012-related prophecies, survival strategies, anticipated alien interventions, alignments with galactic radiation fields, etc. And then there is the Hollywood film, 2012, which explicitly portrays the demise of most of humanity, and the pre-planned salvation of a select few. One never knows with Hollywood productions, what is escapist fantasy, and what is aimed at preparing the public mind symbolically for what is to come.

Whatever the exact date, all the threads will come together, geopolitically and domestically, and the world will change. It will be a new era, just as capitalism was a new era after aristocracy, and the Dark Ages followed the era of the Roman Empire. Each era has its own structure, its own economics, its own social forms, and its own mythology. These things must relate to one another coherently, and their nature follows from the fundamental power relationships and economic circumstances of the system.

In our post-2012 world, we have for the first time one centralized global government, and one ruling elite clique, a kind of extended royal family, the lords of finance. As we can see with the IMF, WHO, and the WTO, and the other pieces of the embryonic world government, the institutions of governance will make no pretensions about popular representation or democratic responsiveness. Rule will be by means of autocratic global bureaucracies, who take their marching orders from the royal family. This model has already been operating for some time, within its various spheres of influence, as with the restructuring programs forced on the third world, as a condition for getting financing.

Whenever there is a change of era, the previous era is always demonized in mythology. In the Garden of Eden story the serpent is demonized – a revered symbol in paganism, the predecessor to Christianity. When republics came along, the demonization of monarchs was an important part of the process. In the post-2012 world, democracy and national sovereignty will be demonized. This will be very important, in getting people to accept totalitarian rule, and the mythology will contain much that is true...

In those terrible dark days, before the blessed unification of humanity, anarchy reigned in the world. One nation would attack another, no better than predators in the wild. Nations had no coherent policies; voters would swing from one party to another, keeping governments always in transition and confusion. How did they ever think that masses of semi-educated people could govern themselves, and run a complex society? Democracy was an ill-conceived experiment that led only to corruption and chaotic governance. How lucky we are to be in this well-ordered world, where humanity has finally grown up, and those with the best expertise make the decisions.

The economics of non-growth are radically different than capitalist economics. The unit of exchange is likely to be a carbon credit, entitling you to consume the equivalent of one kilogram of fuel. Everything will have a carbon value, allegedly based on how much energy it took to produce it and transport it to market. 'Green consciousness' will be a primary ethic, conditioned early into children. Getting by with less is a virtue; using energy is anti-social; austerity is a responsible and necessary condition.

As with every currency, the bankers will want to manage the scarcity of carbon credits, and that's where global warming alarmism becomes important. Regardless of the availability of resources, carbon credits can be kept arbitrarily scarce simply by setting carbon budgets, based on directives from the IPCC, another of our emerging units of global bureaucratic governance. Such IPCC directives will be the equivalent of the Federal Reserve announcing a change in interest rates. Those budgets set the scale of economic activity.

Presumably nations will continue to exist, as official units of governance. However security and policing will be largely centralized and privatized. Like the Roman Legions, the security apparatus will be loyal to the center of empire, not to the place where someone happens to be stationed. We have seen this trend already in the US, as mercenaries have become big business, and police forces are increasingly federalized, militarized, and alienated from the general public.

Just as airports have now been federalized, all transport systems will be under the jurisdiction of the security apparatus. Terrorism will continue as an ongoing bogey-man, justifying whatever security procedures are deemed desirable for social-control purposes. The whole security apparatus will have a monolithic quality to it, a similarity of character regardless of the specific security tasks or location. Everyone dressed in the same Evil Empire black outfits, with big florescent letters on the back of their flack jackets. In essence, the security apparatus will be an occupying army, the emperor's garrison in the provinces.

On a daily basis, you will need to go through checkpoints of various kinds, with varying levels of security requirements. This is where biometrics becomes important. If people can be implanted with chips, then much of the security can be automated, and everyone can be tracked at all times, and their past activity retrieved. The chip links into your credit balance, so you've got all your currency always with you, along with your medical records and lots else that you don't know about.

There is very little left as regards national sovereignty. Nothing much in the way of foreign policy will have any meaning. With security marching to its own law and its distant drummer, the main role of so-called 'government' will be to allocate and administer the carbon-credit budget that it receives from the IPCC. The IPCC decides how much wealth a nation will receive in a given year, and the government then decides how to distribute that wealth in the form of public services and entitlements. Wealth being measured by the entitlement to expend energy.

In a fundamental sense, this is how things already are, following the collapse and the bailouts. Because governments are so deeply in debt, the bankers are able to dictate the terms of national budgets, as a condition of keeping credit lines open. The carbon economy, with its centrally determined budgets, provides a much simpler and more direct way of micromanaging economic activity and resource distribution throughout the globe.

In order to clear the way for the carbon-credit economy, it will be necessary for Western currencies to collapse, to become worthless, as nations become increasingly insolvent, and the global financial system continues to be systematically dismantled. The carbon currency will be introduced as an enlightened, progressive 'solution' to the crisis, a currency linked to something real, and to sustainability. The old monetary system will be demonized, and again the mythology will contain much that is true...

The pursuit of money is the root of all evil, and the capitalist system was inherently evil. It encouraged greed, and consumption, and it cared nothing about wasting resources. People thought the more money they had, the better off they were. How much wiser we are now, to live within our means, and to understand that a credit is a token of stewardship.

Culturally, the post-capitalist era will be a bit like the medieval era, with aristocrats and lords on top, and the rest peasants and serfs. A definite upper class and lower class. Just as only the old upper class had horses and carriages, only the new upper class will be entitled to access substantial carbon credits. Wealth will be measured by entitlements, more than by acquisitions or earnings. Those outside the bureaucratic hierarchies are the serfs, with subsistence entitlements. Within the bureaucracies, entitlements are related to rank in the hierarchy. Those who operate in the central global institutions are lords of empire, with unlimited access to credits.

But there is no sequestering of wealth, or building of economic empires, outside the structures of the designated bureaucracies. Entitlements are about access to resources and facilities, to be used or not used, but not to be saved and used as capital. The flow of entitlements comes downward, micromanaged from the top. It's a dole economy, at all levels, for people and governments alike – the global regimentation of consumption. As regards regimentation, the post-capitalist

culture will also be a bit like the Soviet system. Here's your entitlement card, here's your job assignment, and here's where you'll be living.

With the pervasive security apparatus, and the micromanagement of economic activity, the scenario is clearly about fine-grained social control, according to centralized guidelines and directives. Presumably media will be carefully programmed, with escapist trivia, and a sophisticated version of 1984-style groupthink propaganda pseudo-news, which is pretty much what we already have today. The non-commercial Internet, if there is one, will be limited to monitored, officially-designated chat sites, and other kinds of sanitized forums.

With such a focus on social micromanagement, I do not expect the family unit to survive in the new era, and I expect child-abuse alarmism will be the lever used to destabilize the family. The stage has been set with all the revelations about church and institutional child sexual abuse. Such revelations could have been uncovered any time in the past century, but they came out at a certain time, just as all these other transitional things have been happening. People are now aware that widespread child abuse happens, and they have been conditioned to support strong measures to prevent it.

Whenever I turn on the TV, I see at least one public-service ad, with shocking images, about children who are physically or sexually abused, or criminally neglected, in their homes, and there's a hotline phone number that children can call. It is easy to see how the category of abuse can be expanded, to include parents who don't follow vaccination schedules, whose purchase records don't indicate healthy diets, who have dubious psychological profiles, etc. The state of poverty could be deemed abusive neglect.

With the right media presentation, abuse alarmism would be easy to stir up. Ultimately, a 'child rights' movement becomes an anti-family movement. The state must directly protect the child from birth. The family is demonized...

How scary were the old days, when unlicensed, untrained couples had total control over vulnerable children, behind closed doors, with whatever neuroses, addictions, or perversions the parents happened to possess. How did this vestige of patriarchal slavery, this safe-house den of abuse, continue so long to exist, and not be recognized for what it was? How much better off we are now, with children being raised scientifically, by trained staff, where they are taught healthy values.

Ever since public education was introduced, the state and the family have competed to control childhood conditioning. In religious families, the church has made its own contribution to conditioning. In the micromanaged post-capitalist future, with its Shock Doctrine birth scenario, it would make good sense to take that opportunity to implement the 'final solution' of social control, which is for the state to monopolize child raising. This would eliminate from society the parent-child bond, and hence family-related bonds in general. No longer is there a concept of relatives. There's just worker bees, security bees, and queen bees, who dole out the honey.

Postscript

This has been an extensive and somewhat detailed prognosis, regarding the architecture of the post-capitalist regime, and the transition process required to bring it about. The term 'new world order' is too weak a term to characterize the radical nature of the social transformation anticipated in the prognosis. A more apt characterization would be a 'quantum leap in the domestication of the human species'. Micromanaged lives and microprogrammed beliefs and thoughts. A once wild primate species transformed into something resembling more a bee or ant culture. Needless to say, regular use of psychotropic drugs would be mandated, so that people could cope emotionally with such a sterile, inhuman environment.

For such a profound transformation to be possible, it is easy to see that a very great shock is required, on the scale of collapse and social chaos, and possibly on the scale of a nuclear exchange. There needs to be an implicit mandate to 'do

whatever is necessary to get society running again'. The shock needs to leave people in a condition of total helplessness comparable to the survivors in the bombed-out rubble of Germany and Japan after World War 2. Nothing less will do.

The accuracy of the prognosis, as prediction, is of course impossible to know in advance. However each part of the prognosis has been based on precedents that have been set, modus operandi that has been observed, trends that have been initiated, sentiments that have been expressed, signals that have been given, and actions that have been taken whose consequences can be confidently predicted.

In addition, in looking at all of these indicators together, one sees a certain mindset, an absolutist determination to implement the 'ideal solution', without compromise, using extreme means, and with unbridled audacity. World wars have been rehearsals for this historic moment. The police state infrastructure is in place and has been tested. The economy is in the process of collapse. The enemy is surrounded with missiles. Arbitrary powers have been assumed. If not now, the ultimate prize, then when will there be a better opportunity?

Our elite planners are backed up by competent think tanks, and they know that the new society must have coherence of various kinds. They've had quite a bit of experience with social engineering, nurturing the rise of fascism, and then engineering the postwar regimes. They understand the importance of mythology.

For example there is the mythology of the holocaust, where the story is all about extermination per se, and the story is not told of the primary mission of the concentration camps, which was to provide slave labor for war production. And some of the companies using the slave labor were American owned, and were supplying the German war machine. Thus does mythology, though containing truth, succeed in hiding the tracks and the crimes of elite perps, leaving others to carry the whole burden of historical demonization.

So I think there is a sound basis for anticipating the kinds of mythology that would be designed for leaving behind and rejecting the old ways, and seeing the new as a salvation. There is a long historical precedent of era changes linked with mythology changes, often expressed in religious terms. There will be a familiar ring to the new mythology, a remixing and re-prioritizing of familiar values and assumptions, so as to resonate with the dynamics of the new regime.

The nature of the carbon economy has been somewhat clearly signaled. Carbon budgets, and carbon credits, are clearly destined to become primary components of the economy. As we've seen with the elite and grassroots supported global warming movement, the arbitrary scarcity of carbon credits can be easily regulated on the pretext of environmentalism. And peak oil alarmism is always available as a backup. As elite spokespeople have often expressed, when the time comes, the masses will demand the new world order.

The focus on control over consumption, resources, and distribution is implicit in the emphasis on energy limits, is latent in the geopolitical situation, as regards depletion of global resources, and is indicated by the need for a new unifying paradigm, as the growth paradigm is no longer viable.

The nature of the security apparatus has been clearly signaled by the responses to demonstrations ever since 1998 in Seattle, by the increased use of hardened-killer mercenaries at home and abroad, by excessive and abusive police behavior, by airport security procedures, by Guantanamo and renditions, by the creation of a domestic branch of the army, dedicated to responding to civil emergencies, and by the way Katrina and Haiti have been handled.

It would be a major mistake to think of those last two as bungled operations. They were exercises in collapse management of a certain kind, to be applied to certain populations, where the training and equipment appropriate for combat in Afghanistan is seen as being appropriate for administering aid to civilian disaster victims. These selected disaster victims will be seen primarily as threats to civil order, or perhaps undesirables to be incarcerated or eliminated.

They will be demonized as rioters and looters. Assistance will come later, if at all. And it can all be broadcast on TV, and somehow be seen as the way things have to be. These two exercises were not bungled at all. They were alarmingly successful, most notably in the case of the realtime PR mythology.

The limited role of national governments, being primarily allocators of mandated budgets, has been clearly signaled by long-standing IMF policies in the third world, and by the way the bankers have been dictating to governments, in the wake of the over-extended bailout commitments. The carbon entitlement budgeting paradigm accomplishes the same micromanagement in a much more direct way, and is the natural outcome of the push toward hard carbon limits.

© Copyright Richard K. Moore, Global Research, 2010

Richard K. Moore is a frequent contributor to Global Research.

Global Research [Articles](#) by Richard K. Moore

Global Research [home page](#)

Information Clearing House [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:12 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Kingsnorth/Hine: The Dark Mountain Project

The Dark Mountain Project

[The Project](#) [The Manifesto](#) [Eight Principles of Uncivilisation](#)

Eight Principles of Uncivilisation

*‘We must unhumanise our views a little, and become confident
As the rock and ocean that we were made from.’*

1. We live in a time of social, economic and ecological unravelling. All around us are signs that our whole way of living is already passing into history. We will face this reality honestly and learn how to live with it.
2. We reject the faith which holds that the converging crises of our times can be reduced to a set of ‘problems’ in need of technological or political ‘solutions’.
3. We believe that the roots of these crises lie in the stories we have been telling ourselves. We intend to challenge the stories which underpin our civilisation: the myth of progress, the myth of human centrality, and the myth of our separation from ‘nature’. These myths are more dangerous for the fact that we have forgotten they are myths.
4. We will reassert the role of story-telling as more than mere entertainment. It is through stories that we weave reality.
5. Humans are not the point and purpose of the planet. Our art will begin with the attempt to step outside the human bubble. By careful attention, we will reengage with the non-human world.
6. We will celebrate writing and art which is grounded in a sense of place and of time. Our literature has been dominated for too long by those who inhabit the cosmopolitan citadels.
7. We will not lose ourselves in the elaboration of theories or ideologies. Our words will be elemental. We write with dirt under our fingernails.
8. The end of the world as we know it is not the end of the world full stop. Together, we will find the hope beyond hope, the paths which lead to the unknown world ahead of us.

The Dark Mountain Project [home page](#)

UNCIVILISATION: The Dark Mountain Network [home page](#)

The Dark Mountain Project Manifesto short excerpt:

... It is, it seems, our civilisation's turn to experience the inrush of the savage and the unseen; our turn to be brought up short by contact with untamed reality. There is a fall coming. We live in an age in which familiar restraints are being kicked away, and foundations snatched from under us. After a quarter century of complacency, in which we were invited to believe in bubbles that would never burst, prices that would never fall, the end of history, the crude repackaging of the triumphalism of Conrad's Victorian twilight – Hubris has been introduced to Nemesis. Now a familiar human story is being played out. It is the story of an empire corroding from within. It is the story of a people who believed, for a long time, that their actions did not have consequences. It is the story of how that people will cope with the crumbling of their own myth. It is our story.

This time, the crumbling empire is the unassailable global economy, and the brave new world of consumer democracy being forged worldwide in its name. Upon the indestructibility of this edifice we have pinned the hopes of this latest phase of our civilisation. Now, its failure and fallibility exposed, the world's elites are scrabbling frantically to buoy up an economic machine which, for decades, they told us needed little restraint, for restraint would be its undoing. Uncountable sums of money are being funnelled upwards in order to prevent an uncontrolled explosion. The machine is stuttering and the engineers are in panic. They are wondering if perhaps they do not understand it as well as they imagined. They are wondering whether they are controlling it at all or whether, perhaps, it is controlling them.

Increasingly, people are restless. The engineers group themselves into competing teams, but neither side seems to know what to do, and neither seems much different from the other. Around the world, discontent can be heard. The extremists are grinding their knives and moving in as the machine's coughing and stuttering exposes the inadequacies of the political oligarchies who claimed to have everything in hand. Old gods are rearing their heads, and old answers: revolution, war, ethnic strife. Politics as we have known it totters, like the machine it was built to sustain. In its place could easily arise something more elemental, with a dark heart.

As the financial wizards lose their powers of levitation, as the politicians and economists struggle to conjure new explanations, it starts to dawn on us that behind the curtain, at the heart of the Emerald City, sits not the benign and omnipotent invisible hand we had been promised, but something else entirely. Something responsible for what Marx, writing not so long before Conrad, cast as the 'everlasting uncertainty and anguish' of the 'bourgeois epoch'; a time in which 'all that is solid melts into air, all that is holy is profaned.' Draw back the curtain, follow the tireless motion of cogs and wheels back to its source, and you will find the engine driving our civilisation: the myth of progress.

The myth of progress is to us what the myth of god-given warrior prowess was to the Romans, or the myth of eternal salvation was to the conquistadors: without it, our efforts cannot be sustained. Onto the root stock of Western Christianity, the Enlightenment at its most optimistic grafted a vision of an Earthly paradise, towards which human effort guided by calculative reason could take us. Following this guidance, each generation will live a better life than the life of those that went before it. History becomes an escalator, and the only way is up. On the top floor is human perfection. It is important that this should remain just out of reach in order to sustain the sensation of motion.

Recent history, however, has given this mechanism something of a battering. The past century too often threatened a descent into hell, rather than the promised heaven on Earth. Even within the prosperous and liberal societies of the West progress has, in many ways, failed to deliver the goods. Today's generation are demonstrably less content, and consequently less optimistic, than those that went before. They work longer hours, with less security, and less chance of leaving behind the social background into which they were born. They fear crime, social breakdown, overdevelopment, environmental collapse. They do not believe that the future will be better than the past. Individually, they are less constrained by class and convention than their parents or grandparents, but more constrained by law, surveillance, state proscription and personal debt. Their physical health is better, their mental health more fragile. Nobody knows what is coming. Nobody wants to look.

Most significantly of all, there is an underlying darkness at the root of everything we have built. Outside the cities, beyond the blurring edges of our civilisation, at the mercy of the machine but not under its control, lies something that neither Marx nor Conrad, Caesar nor Hume, Thatcher nor Lenin ever really understood. Something that Western civilisation – which has

set the terms for global civilisation – was never capable of understanding, because to understand it would be to undermine, fatally, the myth of that civilisation. Something upon which that thin crust of lava is balanced; which feeds the machine and all the people who run it, and which they have all trained themselves not to see. ...

The Dark Mountain Project [Manifesto](#) (pdf)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:51 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

[Michael Hudson: Drop Dead Economics](#)

"Drop Dead Economics": The Financial Crisis in Greece and the European Union

The Wealthy Won't Pay Their Taxes, So Labor Must Do So

by Michael Hudson [article link](#)

May 11, 2010 | Global Research

Riddle: How are the Greek rioters like America's Tea Party movement?

Answer: Both reject government being taken over by the financial oligarchy to shift the tax burden onto labor.

The difference is that the Tea Partiers have lost faith in government. This is just what the financial oligarchy wants, of course. Giving up hope of gaining electoral control to pursue a fair fiscal agenda, the Tea Partiers have abandoned the centuries-long fight for reform to make governments better by giving them the power to check predatory finance and wealth. Sliding to the right wing of the political spectrum and acting mainly out of frustration, they have succumbed a utopian desire simply to shrink government that they see acting adversely to their interests.

Financial lobbyists are using the Greek crisis as an object lesson to warn about the need to cut back public spending on Social Security and Medicare. This is the opposite of what the Greek demonstrators are demanding: to reverse the global tax shift off property and finance onto labor, and to give labor's financial claims for retirement pensions priority over claims by the banks to get fully paid on hundreds of billions of dollars of recklessly bad loans recently reduced to junk status.

The Greek bailout should be thought of as a TARP for German and other European bankers and global currency speculators. Almost \$1 trillion is being provided by governments (mainly Germany, at the cost of its own domestic spending) into a kind of escrow account for the Greek government to pay foreign bondholders who bought up these securities at plunging prices over the past few weeks. They will make a killing, as will buyers of hundreds of billions of dollars of credit-default swaps on the Greek government bonds, speculators in euro-swaps and other casino-capitalist gamblers. (Parties on the losing side of these swaps now will need to be bailed out as well, and so on ad infinitum.)

This windfall is to be paid by taxpayers ultimately those of Greece (in effect labor, because the wealthy have been untaxed) to reimburse Euro-governments, the IMF and even the U.S. Treasury for its commitment to predatory finance. The ³sanctity of debt sacrificing the economy to pay bondholders is to be used as an excuse to slash Greek public services, pensions and other government spending. But what is sanctity and religion, after all, without sacrifice. The question is, who is being sanctified, and to what god? In this case it seems to be Mammon, not Jesus. Self-immolation is to become a model for other countries to impose similar austerity as governments run up budget deficits in the face of economic shrinkage and falling tax collections.

Meanwhile, the financial sector is to be enriched by the translation of junk economics into international policy. Living in the short run is the financial sector's time frame while distracting the attention of indebted populations from calculations that Wall Street understands quite well: the debts cannot be paid in the end.

But they can be paid in the short run, with promises to pay someday as if any economies ever have been able to grow by imposing austerity! It is all junk economics, of course. But it buys time for the bankers to pay themselves yet more bonuses this year. By the time the financial system collapses, they presumably will have put their money into hard assets.

Bank lobbyists know that the financial game is over. They are playing for the short run. The financial sector's aim is to take as much bailout money as it can and run, with large enough annual bonuses to lord it over the rest of society after the Clean Slate finally arrives. Less public spending on social programs will leave more bailout money to pay the banks for their exponentially rising bad debts that cannot possibly be paid in the end. It is inevitable that loans and bonds will default in the usual convulsion of bankruptcy.

Greek labor is not yet so pessimistic as to give up the fight. What it recognizes that its American counterparts do not is that somebody will control the government. If labor – the demos – loses its spirit, power will be relinquished to foreign creditors to dictate public policy by default. And the more the bankers' interest is served, the worse and more debt-burdened the economy will become. Their gain is bought at the price of domestic austerity. Scheduled payouts by Greek pension funds and government social spending programs must be to replenish German and other European bank capital.

This worldview already has been delivered to Europe's northernmost periphery, where it has elicited a fiscal masochism that banks hope to see in Greece. Having fallen on their swords, Baltic governments would be jealous and even resentful to see Greece rescue its economy where they themselves failed to repudiate arrogant creditor demands. "Seen from the eastern rim of the European Union, the looming austerity drive in crisis-afflicted Greece reads like old news," writes Nina Kolyako.[1] "For almost two years, the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have brought in repeated draconian measures, slashing public spending and hiking taxes to try to dig themselves out of a hole. 'We learned the lessons very painfully, heavily and effectively, that you need to look after the fiscal situation very carefully,' Lithuanian Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius told AFP in a recent interview. 'We understood very clearly that fiscal consolidation was the only way for us to survive.'"

Capitulating in a classic Stockholm syndrome (literally to Swedish banks in this case), Lithuania's government dutifully tightened to screws so much that GDP plunged by over 17 percent. A similar plunge occurred in Latvia. The Baltics have slashed public-sector employment and wages, imposing poverty rather than the Western European levels of prosperity (and progressive taxation to foster a middle class) that was promised after the Baltics achieved their independence from Russia in 1991.

After Latvia's parliament imposed austerity in December 2008, popular protest in January brought down the government (as a similar protest did in Iceland). But the result was merely another neoliberal "occupation regime" run on behalf of foreign banking interests. So what is unfolding is a Social War on a global scale – not the class war envisioned in the 19th century, but a war of finance against entire economies, against industry, real estate and governments as well as against labor. It is happening in the usual slow motion in which great historical transitions occur. But as in military conflicts, each battle seems frenetic and spurs wild zigzagging on the world's stock and bond exchanges and currency markets.

All this is great news for computer program traders. The average commitment of funds lasts only a few seconds these days as financial markets are buffeted up and down by vast credit waves blown by the storms sweeping today's financially overheating planet.

The coming economic dystopia

The Greek crisis shows how far the "European idea" has shifted from 1957 when the six-member European Economic Community (EEC) was formed. At U.S. prodding, Britain and Scandinavia created the rival seven-member European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Even so, the promise of Euroland – at least before Maastricht and Lisbon – was to elevate labor to middle-class prosperity, not to impose IMF-type austerity programs of the sort that devastated Third World countries. The message to indebted economies is stark: "Drop dead." And they are obediently committing economic suicide (emulating Japan in the 1985 Plaza Accords) to endorse the Washington Consensus – the class war of finance against labor and industry.

Political, social, fiscal and economic power is being transferred to the EU bureaucracy and its financial controllers in the European Central Bank (ECB) and the IMF, whose austerity plans and related anti-labor programs direct governments to sell off the public domain, land and subsoil wealth, public enterprises, and to commit future tax revenues to pay creditor nations. This policy already has been imposed on “New Europe” (the post-Soviet economies and Iceland) since autumn 2008. It is now to be imposed on the PIIGS (Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain). No wonder there are riots!

For observers who missed Iceland and Latvia last year, Greece is the newest and so far the largest battlefield. At least Iceland and the Baltics have the option of re-denominating loans in their own currency, writing down their foreign debts at will and taxing property to recapture for the government the revenue that has been pledged to foreign bankers. But Greece is locked into a European currency union, run by unelected financial officials who have inverted the historical meaning of democracy. Instead of the economy’s most important sector – finance – being subject to electoral politics, central banks (the designated lobbyists for commercial and investment bankers) have been made independent of political checks and balances.

In truly Orwellian fashion, right-wingers in Europe and the United States (such as Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke) call this the “hallmark of democracy.” It actually is the stamp of oligarchy, stripping away control over the economy’s credit allocation – and hence, forward planning – while giving high finance a stranglehold over public spending programs.

Iceland, Latvia and now Greece are the opening shots in the resulting global campaign to roll back the great democratic reform program of the 19th century and the Progressive Era: taxation of land and the “unearned increment” of price gains for real estate, stocks and bonds, and subordination of the financial sector to the needs of economic growth under democratic direction. This doctrine was still being followed by the post-1945 era of progressive taxation that saw the 20th century’s greatest rise in living standards and economic growth. But most countries have reversed the fiscal trend since 1980. Tax collectors have “freed” income from public obligation only to see it pledged to banks for higher loans to bid up property prices.

Houses, office buildings and entire companies are worth whatever banks will lend. So populations (and corporate raiders) have responded to the pro-financial tax shift by borrowing to buy houses (and companies) before prices recede even further out of reach. And taxes on labor now are about to be jacked up to pay off the public debts resulting from the asset-price inflation and financial wreckage that property tax cuts have helped cause. This is the cause of national debts. Governments have run into debt as a result of un-taxing the wealthy in general, not just real estate.

Following Western governments in shifting the fiscal burden off property and finance onto labor over the past few decades, Greece’s government is politically unable or unwilling to tax the wealthy, or even well-to-do professionals. But neoliberals blame it and other debtor governments for not selling off enough public land and enterprises to make up the gap. Tax-deductible interest charges make privatizations on credit tax-exempt, so governments will lose the user fees they formerly received – while populations pay higher “tollbooth” charges for hitherto public services.

Just as the U.S. Government has done, it has issued bonds to finance the deficit resulting from these tax cuts. The buyers of these bonds (mainly German banks) are demanding that Greek labor (and now German taxpayers as well) should bear the burden of tax shortfalls. German and other European banks and bondholders are to be repaid at the social cost of drastic cutbacks in pensions and social spending – and if possible, by more privatization sell-offs at distress prices.

The riots in Greece have erupted because labor understands what most journalistic reporting shies away from confronting. Growth in real wages has slowed (and has stopped cold in the United States since about 1979). Home ownership has been achieved at the cost of new buyers taking on a lifetime of mortgage debt. And the post-Soviet economies won their political freedom from Russia, only to find themselves insolvent today, dependent on IMF and EU direction of their economies to obtain the loans to pay their foreign bankers that have loaded down their housing, public enterprises, industry and families with debt.

Bondholders and financial speculators have ganged up to demand EU, IMF and US support for them to take their gains before the financial game crashes. The grab can be done most quickly by shrinking economies under IMF-style austerity plans. Unemployment is to rise while driving economies even further into debt – not only public debt as shrinking markets lead to falling tax revenue, but also foreign debt as import dependency increases.

Creditors are to be paid by letting them appropriate the economic surplus, in the form of debt service at the expense of new capital investment, infrastructure spending, public social spending and rising living standards. Economically, the Greek uprising is a revolt against the policy of sacrificing prosperity to pay foreign creditors in this way.

At the political level the fight is to save Greece from being turned into an anti-state. The classical definition of a “state” or government is the ability to levy taxes and issue money. But Greece has relinquished its fiscal authority to the EU and IMF, which are telling it to violate what political theorists list as the Prime Directive of any government: to act in the long-term national interest. The Greek government is being directed to act on behalf of bank capital, and indeed, that of foreign countries to engage in asset stripping, not to promote long-term growth.

At issue is whether nations will be run by creditors or by popular aims to reap the benefits of economic growth. An oligarchic push for IMF-EU loans to bail out foreign banks and bond speculators at the expense of Greek labor (the intended taxpayers of the future) aims at making labor rather than finance capital take the loss of government arrears resulting from un-taxing wealth. The aim is to enable foreign banks to avoid having to pay the price for acting as enablers in draining the domestic market. Government policy is to be taken out of the hands of voters and subordinated to the IMF and EU acting as instruments of international finance.

This creates a state of affairs in which neither Greece nor the EC are “states” or “governments” in the traditional political sense. The EU and IMF bureaucracy is not elected. And at the point where their foreign-dictated financial plan succeeds, the economy’s capital will be stripped and social democracy will collapse.

On Sunday, May 9, German voters expressed their anger at the government’s role in bailing out German bankers (euphemized as bailing out “Greece”) at the expense of German taxpayers. The European Central Bank [ECB] is not creating free euro-money but is billing national governments). the Social Democrats overtook Chancellor Angela Merkel’s Christian Democratic Union party in North Rhine-Westphalia. Winning only a bit over a third of the vote – a bit less than the Social Democrats (and down over 10 percentage points from the last election, of which 4 points were lost just in the last week when the bailout package was promoted by Ms. Merkel) – the CDU lost its majority in Germany’s upper house.

Many German voters may have wondered whether taxing the poor to pay the rich to engage in usury was really as “Christian” as the party claimed to represent. Or maybe they were concerned that Germany’s tax collector is to pay nearly \$30 billion as its share in the bailout of bankers – not all of whom are beloved in Germany, even when they are German. And some no doubt saw the game as a financial deception by the banking sector’s compliant politicians.

The deception

Europe’s financial lobbyists used the crisis as an opportunity to promote a broad series of bailouts. For Swedish and Austrian banks, the EU approved a €60bn extension of the balance-of-payments facility already put in place to help Hungary, Romania and Latvia keep current on their debts to Austrian and Swedish banks respectively. To circumvent the Eurozone’s no-bailout principle, this special bailout law is based on Article 122.2 of the EU treaty permitting loans to governments in “exceptional circumstances.”[2]

If we give Ms. Merkel credit for understanding the economics at work, then we must accuse her of lying through her teeth. The Baltic debt problem is chronic and structural, not “exceptional.” Ms. Merkel also must know that she is being deceptive in pretending to help Latvia by extending loans that the EU limits explicitly to support the lat’s exchange rate, not for domestic development. The foreign exchange is to cover the cost of Latvians paying mortgages in euros to Swedish banks, and of Latvian consumers buying food and manufactures that EU governments subsidize while leaving the Baltics in a state of economic and financial dependency.

Latvia thus is being victimized, not helped. The aim is to give Swedish banks a little more time to keep collecting payments on loans that are going to go bad in due course. Foreign exchange spent in facilitating private debt service to foreign banks becomes a national debt, to be paid by Latvian taxpayers. This EU loan thus is an exercise in naked neo-colonialism.

Will the belated shift of German voters to back the Social Democrat red-green coalition with the Green and Left parties do much to stem matters? Probably not. Greek President Papandreou acquiesced in the cave-in despite being head of the Socialist International. So the question is whether Greece really is checkmated, destined to see its public spending, pensions, health care, schooling and living standards rolled back in the way that the Baltics have experienced. They have been an experiment in neoliberal central planning. If they are an example of what the future is to bring, the world will soon see a wave of Greek emigration, Baltic-style.

That evidently is what stock markets around the world anticipated when they soared on Monday morning at the news of Europe's trillion-dollar bailout. What really was bailed out is the principle that economies should be stripped so that finance capital may rule. But the fight surely is not yet over. It will escalate for the remainder of the 2010s, because it is nothing less than an attempt to roll back the history of the 19th and 20th century's struggle to replace the power of vested property and financial interests with principles of progressive taxation and public enterprise.

Is this where Western civilization really is supposed to be leading? Confronted by parliaments controlled by aristocracies, the 19th-century reformers sought to take them over on behalf of democracy. Classical political economy was a reform program to tax away the "free lunch" of land rents, monopoly rents and financial interest extraction. John Maynard Keynes celebrated this program in his gentle term, "euthanasia of the rentiers."

But the vested interests have fought back. Calling social democracy and public regulation "the road to serfdom," They are trying to set Europe's economies on the road to debt peonage. Making an end-run around national elected governments to impose the Washington Consensus IMF and EU institutions have gained fiscal and economic control over governments and their tax policies to cut taxes on wealth – and borrow from it to finance the resulting fiscal deficits.

America's Tea Partiers and anti-tax rebels have given up the fight to reform governments. Squeezed by debt from which they see no escape, they demand lower taxes – and are willing to see the highest brackets become the major beneficiaries in an even more regressive tax shift. Faced with the corruption of Congress by lobbyists acting on behalf of the vested interests, they reject government itself and seek safety in local gated communities. They see Congress and parliaments throughout the world losing autonomy to the IMF, the EU and other Washington Consensus organizations seeking to impose austerity and shift the tax burden onto labor and industry, off property and off predatory finance.

The only way to prevent a regressive tax shift and debt squeeze is gain control of governments on behalf of the spirit of classical economic and Progressive Era reforms. At least, that is what Greek labor is rioting for. Someone must control government, and if democratic forces withdraw from the fight, the financial sector will tighten its trip.

Last week is still only the beginning of how this drama will play out. The response by the post-Soviet economies, which have retained their own currencies, is to come this summer and autumn.

Notes

[1] "[Austerity drives are old news for Baltic States](#)," Baltic Course, May 10, 2010.

[2] Ben Hall, "[Governments to control loan guarantee scheme](#)," Financial Times, May 10, 2010.

Michael Hudson is a frequent contributor to Global Research.

Global Research [Articles](#) by Michael Hudson

Global Research [home page](#)

PIIGS Win. Bankers Win. Voters Lose.

by Gary North [article link](#)

May 12, 2010 | LewRockwell

LewRockwell [home page](#)

EU Tumbles Toward Failure?

Staff Report [article link](#)

May 11, 2010 | The Daily Bell

The Daily Bell [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [8:45 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

[David DeGraw: The Financial Oligarchy Reigns | Take Action!](#)

The Financial Oligarchy Reigns:

Democracy's Death Spiral From Greece to the United States

By David DeGraw [report link](#)

May 10th, 2010 | AmpedStatus Report

Take Action! How We Can Save OUR Economy

By Tiffany Cheng, David DeGraw and Kevin Zeese [article link](#) [article link](#)

May 11th, 2010 | For Our Economy

The next few weeks will culminate into a defining moment in American history and lay the course for our economic future. After two years of being asleep at the switch, Congress is finally stepping up and taking action on financial reform. The resulting bill will be a clear indication and definitive proof as to who is actually running our country. Will it reinforce the dominance of the Wall Street elite, or will it mark a rebirth of the rule of law and economic prosperity for millions of Americans who have seen their standard of living decline?

The early indications are ominous, two of the most crucial aspects of true reform have already been dealt a severe blow. The amendment to break up the “too big to fail” banks has been voted down, and the bill to audit the Federal Reserve has been gutted of important provisions.

We cannot just sit back and let politicians, who are overly influenced by campaign funding and lobbying activities on the part of the big banks who have plunged us into this crisis, decide our future without us. Our passive unwillingness to stand up for our own rights is part of the reason we are in this crisis to begin with. Right now is the most pivotal time for us to make our voice heard.

This bill is where we draw the line and STAND UP.

Enough is enough! It's time for Americans to take OUR economy back from the big banks and financial interests that have looted it. It's time to restructure, decentralize and democratize OUR economy.

Wall Street has pillaged our country. It has been bailed out and saved from their casino gambling, Ponzi schemes and allowed to continue their plunder. They are the concentrated power that history has warned us about.

Trillions of our taxpayer dollars have been handed over from the Treasury Department and Federal Reserve to the Wall Street elite, handed over to benefit the very people who caused the crisis. The truth about how many trillions of our tax dollars have been “transferred,” and who exactly they have been given to, has been kept secret in the un-audited Federal Reserve. It is time to audit the Fed and either dismantle it or remake it so it reflects the interests of the people, not the big banks who have hijacked our economy.

How much do they have to steal before Americans say, 'No more! It is OUR money, it is OUR economy'? How many more honest, law abiding, hardworking Americans have to lose their homes, jobs and struggle just to acquire basic necessities and make ends meet before these greedy bankers are held accountable?

Before laying out our 12-step program to take our economy back, let's take a brief look at some of the devastating results of Wall Street's greed:

- * Over 50 million US citizens are living in poverty;
- * The US now has the HIGHEST poverty rate in the industrialized world;
- * 50% of American children will need to use a food stamp during their childhood;
- * 30 million Americans are in need of employment, with 20% of Americans either unemployed, underemployed or without hope of finding work;
- * Foreclosure rates continue to break record after record. More than five million families have already lost their homes. A record 2.8 million properties were in foreclosure in 2009. The first three months of 2010 had the highest foreclosure rates ever, and 13-25 million foreclosures are predicted by 2014.
- * In the past two years, Americans have lost \$5 trillion from their pensions and savings. They have also lost \$13 trillion in the value of their homes.
- * Personal bankruptcies are rising. A record number of Americans filed for bankruptcy in March 2010. In fact, 6,900 Americans go bankrupt every day.
- * Due to this economic crisis, American workers have bought more on credit cards than ever before. We now have over \$850 billion in credit card debt, as banks charge usurious interest rates on this debt.
- * The US now has the HIGHEST inequality of wealth in our nation's history. The economic top 1% controls an all-time record 70% of all financial assets.
- * The average CEO salary, including stock options and incentives, has skyrocketed and is now 500 times more than the average workers.
- * While CEO salaries have been soaring and corporate profits are breaking all-time records, average worker pay is declining and incentives are being cut.

These are just some of the horrifying results of Wall Street's rigging of the economy. The free-market is now a rigged-market ruled by corporate welfare and crony capitalists who are funneling wealth away from 99% of the American public and directly into their coffers on an unprecedented scale. Risk, losses and debts have been socialized, while profits have been privatized.

As a consequence of their continued looting, austerity measures are about to be implemented. In state after state across the country, and on a federal level, we are facing severe deficits. Mass school closings have already been scheduled for the end of this school year, as thousands of teachers have already been told that they will no longer have a job. Pension funds and medical programs are being slashed. Fire fighters, police and health care workers are being cut back. Six million Americans are on the verge of losing the unemployment benefits that they have been surviving off of and there are now a record six available workers for every one job opening. Unemployment insurance funds have already been depleted in 33 states, with more expected to go into the red within the next few months.

Draconian cuts in vital social programs and critical government functions are just beginning to be phased in, while our national wealth is still being transferred to the wealthiest. They are pulling out the social infrastructure from below us and are about to pile higher taxes on top of us.

While nearly 200 million, two out of three, Americans are struggling to make ends meet and currently living paycheck to paycheck, billionaires have increased their aggregate wealth by a stunning 50% during this economic crisis.

The Robber Barons of the Gilded Age have now been displaced as America's greediest ruling class.

After trillions in bailouts – a cover for the greatest theft of wealth in history – we are seeing record-breaking profits and bonuses on Wall Street. We have the power to stop this looting, break up this concentrated power and take back the economy. We just have to stand up for ourselves – TOGETHER.

We can break the financial oppression, and here's how we will do it.

The Mobilization for OUR Economy begins while the Obama Administration and Congress are debating reform of the financial industry. However, much more than what is being proposed is needed to give Americans control over their economic lives. To achieve these objectives, we are working to make the following common-sense reforms into reality:

#1) Break up the "Too Big To Fail" Banks. You can't have free-market competition when a handful of big banks can rig the market and regulatory structure to benefit themselves at the expense of everyone else. We will continue to push for reforms put forth in the Kaufman-Brown SAFE Banking Act.

#2) Put in place a transparent open exchange for over-the-counter derivatives and ban High Frequency Trading (HFT). Investigate all prior HFT and frontrunning activities, including the sudden 1000 point stock market plunge on May 6th. Create a team of experts to analyze/restructure/dissolve existing derivative contracts to reduce risk. We support Senator Blanche Lincoln's Wall Street Transparency and Accountability Act.

#3) Require stricter accounting standards so the real value and debt/liabilities of banks are understood. With this, a more responsible executive pay structure must be implemented. Investigate firms and hold them liable for accounting scams. Clawbacks must be implemented on bonuses and executive compensation that was based on false profits. Investigate the Federal Reserve's role in covering up, aiding and abetting firms in accounting fraud.

#4) Rein in corporate power. Stop corporate welfare – no more bailouts! End corporate personhood and reverse the Citizens United court decision by a constitutional amendment. We must also make sure that all taxpayer funds and loans handed out in the bailout are returned with an interest rate that reflects current profit margins that were created as a result of our tax money.

#5) Audit the Federal Reserve. There should be zero secrecy in this private banking corporation that prints U.S. dollars and extends zero interest loans to a select few. The Fed should either be dismantled or re-made to represent the interests of the American people, not the banks, and include elected positions on their Board of Governors.

#6) Tax trading of stocks, bonds, derivatives and options. A small micro-tax applied to large firms would slow high-risk speculation and provide significant revenue, allowing reduction of income taxes, withholding taxes and adequately fund government operations.

#7) Corresponding to our second objective, close the casino by reinstating both a modernized version of the Glass-Steagall Act, which separated commercial and investment banking, and a strict Net Capital rule that limits wild risk-taking and speculating.

#8) Shut the revolving door and put up a strict firewall between finance executives and government regulators and officials.

#9) End usurious credit card and pay day loans. Cap interest rates and get rid of hidden bank fees.

#10) Create an empowered and independent Consumer Protection Agency (CPA). Investigate predatory lending schemes, liar's loans and put a moratorium on home foreclosures, as the first steps in what will be many investigations into abusive practices. Credit rating agencies should be regulated by the CPA and function independently of the firms producing the products being rated.

#11) Urgently hire 1,500+ white-collar crime investigators to enforce existing laws.

#12) Fire, investigate and prosecute government officials like Tim Geithner, Ben Bernanke, Larry Summers and John Dugan, and investigate Hank Paulson, Alan Greenspan and Robert Rubin, all of whom played a significant role in the financial collapse and the massive "transfer" of wealth to the finance industry. Also investigate and prosecute, under RICO statutes, top executives in financial firms who engaged in fraudulent activity. Appoint people like Elizabeth Warren, Simon Johnson, Joseph Stiglitz, William Black and Ron Paul to positions of authority over the economy.

These are our primary objectives and the necessary steps that must be taken to take OUR economy back. If the financial reform bill, that has been two years in the making, doesn't live up to this 12-step program, we will know that our politicians have sold us short once again.

The Wall Street elite have controlled our political process for too long!

We must show them that we mean business this time, so STAND UP and fight for your future. Join us at sit-ins, protests and rallies across the United States. We can take back our country. We can regain control over our economic lives.

The time is now!

HISTORY IS CALLING YOU!

YOUR FUTURE IS CALLING YOU!

YOU ARE NEEDED!

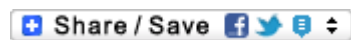
SIGN UP NOW:

For Our Economy [home page](#)

For Our Economy [register](#)

AmpedStatus [home page](#)

Break Up the Financial Oligarchy: Reorganize, Decentralize, Democratize

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:46 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Shamus Cooke: How Economic Recessions Cause Wars and Revolutions](#)

How Economic Recessions Cause Wars and Revolutions

by Shamus Cooke [article link](#)

May 10, 2010 | Global Research

A quick glance around the globe reveals a ruined international economy, wars and more wars in the works, and revolutionary movements aplenty — all connected phenomena. No, the apocalypse is not coming; but the international economic system currently used to arrange the social order is crumbling, taking everyone down with it.

The global capitalist system is in far worse shape than most people realize: it may only take the tiny economy of Greece to go bankrupt to break this camel's back — and finally the word “recession” will be antiquated and “depression” will be in vogue.

How did this happen?

A great economic downturn would have happened years ago were it not for the monstrous debt that many governments created — consumer, corporate, and state — to prop up the economic system, since debt was needed to fuel the consumption that corporations depended on for the purchase of their products. When this global debt bubble burst, the current crisis was ignited. The debts started going unpaid and the banks stopped lending, creating the “credit crunch.”

Giant corporations thus began failing, and the governments that are heavily “influenced” by these corporations went on a bailout frenzy: billions and trillions of taxpayer money poured into these companies, keeping them alive to plunder another day.

After the bailouts, stupid politicians everywhere declared the capitalist system “saved,” and the crisis over. But bigger crises were already visible on the horizon.

The debt that nations used to bailout private corporations was too massive. If these countries' currencies are to retain any value, the debt must be trimmed (the Euro for example, is widely believed to be “finished”). The battle over how this trimming takes place can be properly referred to as “class war” — a revolution in Greece is brewing over such an issue, with Portugal, Spain, and Italy not far behind.

All over Europe and the U.S. the corporate elite is demanding that the giant government debts — due to bailouts and wars — be reduced by lowering wages, gutting social services, slashing public education, Social Security, Medicare, etc. Labor unions and progressive groups are demanding that the rich and corporations, instead, pay for the crisis that they created through progressive taxation, eliminating tax havens, and if need be, nationalization. This tug of war over society's resources is class war. The global crisis has developed to such a degree that no middle ground can be safely bargained.

This revolution-creating dynamic also spawns wars. Corporations demand that wages and benefits be reduced during a recession so that “profitability is restored.” This is the only way out of a global recession, since nothing is produced under capitalism if it doesn't create a profit; and recessions destroy profit. But there are other ways to restore profits.

While corporate-controlled governments work to restore domestic profitability by attacking the living standards of workers, they likewise look abroad to fix their problems. A sure-fire way to increase profits is to export more products overseas, something Obama has mentioned in dozens of speeches. One way to ensure that a foreign country will accept/market your exported goods is by threatening them, or attacking them. An occupied country, like Iraq for example, was forced to allow a flood of U.S. corporations inside to pillage as they saw fit — an automatic export boom.

When the world market shrinks during a recession — since consumers can afford to buy fewer goods — the urge to dominate markets via war increases dramatically. These same shrinking markets compel international corporations, based in different nations, to insanely compete for markets, raw materials, and cheap labor. War is a very logical outcome in such circumstances.

President Obama reminds us:

“The world's fastest-growing markets are outside our borders. We need to compete for those customers because other nations are competing for them.” Having a giant military establishment to back them up enables U.S. corporations to be better “competitors” than other nations.

War also serves as a valuable distraction to an angry public which is demanding jobs, higher wages, health care, well funded public education, and taxes on the wealthy. Better to channel this anger into hatred toward a “foreign enemy.”

The above issues are the ones certain to dominate major events in the coming years. The class war that is erupting as a result of the global depression will effect the majority of people in many nations, through joblessness, shrinking wages, the destruction of government services, or war.

As working people in the U.S. begin a fight against these policies, the corporate elite will stop at nothing to implement them, and the social unrest in Europe will be transferred to the U.S. More working people will come to the realization that an economic system owned by giant corporations — themselves owned by very wealthy individuals — is irrational, and needs to be replaced.

Shamus Cooke is a social service worker, trade unionist, and writer for Workers Action (www.workerscompass.org). He can be reached at shamuscooke@gmail.com

Global Research [home page](#)

Crony Capitalism Is NOT Capitalism

by Dom Armentano [article link](#)

May 10, 2010 | LewRockwell

LewRockwell [home page](#)

“The People of Greece Are Fighting for the Whole of Europe”

Tariq Ali and Mark Weisbrot Discuss Greece’s Economic Crisis and Popular Uprising

Democracy Now! [show link \(mp3\) and transcript](#)

May 11, 2010

The European Union and the International Monetary Fund have approved a nearly \$1 trillion package to stop Greece’s debt crisis from spilling beyond its borders into the rest of the eurozone. Stocks surged in Europe, Asia and the United States Monday after EU leaders agreed to a \$960 billion package to contain Greece’s financial troubles. Meanwhile, the austerity measures demanded by the IMF and the European Union as a condition of their loan are continuing to exact their toll. Greece’s two main unions have continued to hold protests against the reforms. In a statement, one of the unions said, “The crisis should be paid by...all those who looted public finances.” Last week nearly 100,000 people participated in a mass demonstration and a twenty-four-hour general strike against the austerity measures.

Democracy Now! [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:37 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Monday, May 10, 2010

Eric Toussaint: The Market: The New Faith

A Death-Breeding Logic

The Market: the New Faith

By ERIC TOUSSAINT [article link](#)

May 10, 2010

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

Practically all political leaders - whether from the traditional Left or the Right, from the North or the South - have a quasi-religious faith in the market, especially the financial markets. Or rather, they themselves are the high priests of this religion. Every day in every country, anyone with a television or an Internet connection can attend mass and worship the market-god - in the form of stock exchange and financial market reports. The market-god sends his messages through television anchormen and the financial editors of daily newspapers. Today, this happens not only in OECD countries, but in most parts of the planet. Whether you are in Shanghai or Dakar, Rio de Janeiro or Timbuktu, you can receive 'market signals'. **Everywhere, governments have privatised and created the illusion that the population will be able to participate directly in market rituals (by buying shares) and reap the benefits in accordance with how well one interprets signals sent by the market-god. In actual fact, the small part of the working population that has acquired shares has no say over market tendencies.**

In a few centuries, the history books might say that from the 1980s onwards a fetishist cult prospered. The dramatic rise of this cult will perhaps be associated with two heads of state, Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan. It will be noted that, from the start, this cult had the backing of governments and powerful private financial interests. Indeed, for this cult to gain ground within the population, public and private media found it necessary to pay homage to it day in and day out.

The gods of this religion are the financial markets. Its temples are known as Stock Exchanges. Only the high priests and their acolytes can tread their holy ground. The faithful are called upon to commune with their market-god on television, on their computer screen, in the daily papers, on the radio or at the bank. Thanks to television, radio and the Internet even in the most remote parts of the planet, hundreds of millions of people who are deprived of the right to meet their basic needs, are also urged to celebrate the market-god. In the North, in newspapers read by a majority of workers, housewives and unemployed, an 'investment' section is published every day, even though the overwhelming majority of readers do not own a single share. Journalists are paid to help the faithful understand signals sent by the gods.

To heighten the power of the gods in the eyes of the faithful, commentators periodically declare that the gods have sent signals to governments to express their satisfaction or discontent. The Greek government and parliament have at last understood the message sent by the gods and adopted a drastic austerity plan that has the lower classes paying the price. But the gods are dissatisfied with Spain, Portugal, Italy and Ireland. Their governments too will have to contribute their ritual offerings in the guise of strong antisocial measures.

The places where the gods are most likely to forcefully express their moods are Wall Street in New York, the City in London, and the Paris, Frankfurt and Tokyo stock exchanges. To gauge their moods, special indicators have been devised: the Dow Jones in New York, the Nikkei in Tokyo, the CAC40 in France, the Footsie in London, the Dax in Frankfurt,... To appease the gods, governments must sacrifice the Welfare State to the stock markets. They must also privatise public property.

Why are ordinary market operators given a religious aura? They are neither anonymous nor ethereal. They have names, addresses. **They are the people in charge of the 200 biggest TNCs that control the world with the help of the G7, the G20 and institutions such as the IMF, which came back into the limelight thanks to the financial crisis. Next we also**

have the World Bank and the World Trade Organisation, currently in a rather difficult predicament, but who knows, the gods might favour it again soon. Governments are no strangers to this situation; from Reagan and Thatcher onwards, they relinquished the means they had of controlling financial markets. The situation is now almost reversed: institutional investors (i.e. major banks, pension funds, insurance companies, hedge funds, etc.) received thousands of billions dollars from governments in the form of grants or loans to bail them out after the 2007-8 meltdown. The European Central Bank, the US Federal Reserve, the Bank of England now lend them money on a daily basis at a lower rate than the capital inflation that institutional investors immediately use to speculate against the euro and against public money.

Money can cross borders without a single cent in taxes being levied. More than 3,000 billion dollars race around the planet every day. Less than 2 per cent of this amount is linked to actual trade in goods and services or to productive investments. More than 98 per cent is used for purely speculative operations mainly on currencies, on commodities, and on debt securities.

We have to put a stop to this death-breeding logic. We have to develop a new financial discipline, to expropriate the financial sector and exert social democratic control on all financial matters, to tax all institutional investors (which triggered and then profited from the crisis) heavily, to audit and cancel public debts, to implement a distributive tax reform, to drastically reduce working hours so as to offer more jobs while maintaining wages at their current level... In short, we must launch an anticapitalist project.

Translated by Raghu Krishnan in collaboration with Vicki Briault, Christine Pagnoulle and Judith Harris.

Eric Toussaint, Doctor in Political Science (University of Liege and University of Paris VIII), is president of president of the Committee for the Cancellation of Third World Debt – Belgium www.cadtm.org , author of [The World Bank: A Critical Primer](#), Pluto, London, 2008.

CounterPunch [home page](#)

Mammon or Messiah Book 2 The Midnight Hour

MM Book 2 Chapter 7-17

The currency of **** LOVE **** is our means of exchange [of everything !!] – 1 Cor 14:40 “let ***all*** things be done decently [honestly] and in order”; **GOD IS LOVE, AND SO ARE WE !!** – we are the children of LOVE; the kingdom of LOVE is within us; the gospel of LOVE is truth – the tribulation [the curse] arrives ***because*** of us [the "great transgression"], **NOT** in spite of us !! – the very fact that we have something to write about [the curses] is because of our failure as the COG, the people of God, as God’s “House of Prayer” [**** discerning, petitioning, bringing God's will on the earth ****] !! — **the Nation(-State) is actually the “physical church” and indeed the brethren [citizens] have been made merchandise of !!** — **the secular priests are the imposed leaders [ie., the politicians, CEO's, etc., the social elite]; the business guru’s [the prophets of profit]; the economists, the scholars [the theologians]; BUSINESS IS CLAIMED AS [HAS CLAIMED; IMPOSED ON US AS] ABSOLUTE RELIGION; A DEMANDING, UNFORGIVING, UNLOVING GOD** — what we actually employ in the western nations [Israel] is “democratic-fascism”, an elected face/mask on a fascist systemic [a system of government characterized by rigid one-party (business party) dictatorship, forcible suppression of opposition, private economic enterprise under centralized governmental control (the SAGE-MIIM); belligerent (bellicose, warlike; a readiness to fight) nationalism, racism, and militarism, etc.]; **BUSINESS IS BELLIGERENCY** [the state of being at war, or of being recognized as a belligerent (belligerence: aggressively hostile attitude, nature or quality); business is an adversarial covenant designed to employ, produce and secure an artificially contrived resource (money)] — **LOVE AS ABSOLUTE MODE** [pure form; way of being] **AND SYSTEMIC, IS NULLIFIED, IS MADE ABSENT** [withheld, restrained, negated] **FROM PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL ISRAEL; BUSINESS AS ETHOS IS THE ANTITHESIS [exactly opposite and opposed; an opposition of thought (psychosis)] OF GOD’S LOVE !!**

1 John 4:17. Herein is ***our love made perfect***, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: **** because as he is, so are we in this world **** [**** WE MUST BE AS GOD IN THIS WORLD ** = OUR LOVE MADE PERFECT !!**] [**** CHRIST COME IN THE FLESH, OUR FLESH ****].

MM Book 2 Chapter 7 [web page](#)

MM Book 2 [blog home](#)

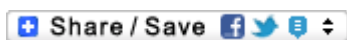
The SAGE: A Private, Closed Society The Private Agency that Owns and Controls the World

MM Addendum 1-3

Who are the privileged and powerful, those whom the SAGE count as their very own ?? – those who own and direct the Federal Reserve, the central banks, the financial houses, the TNCs, the manufacturing and mining conglomerates, the media and entertainment industries, the PR firms, the agribusiness and life science firms, the public policy institutions (the think-tanks and universities), and the legal and medical establishments are what is meant by the “owning class,” the Fortune 500’s, etc. – the “ruling elites” or “ruling class” are the politically active portion of the “owning class” – they and their faithful acolytes and scribes compose the Business Roundtable, the Business Council, the Trilateral Commission, and the Council on Foreign Relations, etc., they direct the World Bank and the IMF and set the conditions for the WTO – from their ranks are recruited the Secretaries of State, Defense, and Treasury, National Security Advisors and CIA Directors, and, indeed, U.S. Senators, Presidents, and Vice Presidents – for the very top positions of state in the US/UK/EU, the ruling class is mostly self-recruiting – the SAGE are those who direct the “ruling elite” (those “holding power”), they are the “guardian elite” (“holding authority”), the self-appointed royalty of the privileged.

MM Addendum 1 [web page](#)

MM Addendum 1 [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:42 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Chris Hedges: After Religion Fizzles, We’re Stuck with Nietzsche](#)

After Religion Fizzles, We’re Stuck with Nietzsche

by Chris Hedges [article link](#) [article link](#)

May 10, 2010 | TruthDig.com

It is hard to muster much sympathy over the implosion of the Catholic Church, traditional Protestant denominations or Jewish synagogues. These institutions were passive as the Christian right, which peddles magical thinking and a Jesus-as-warrior philosophy, hijacked the language and iconography of traditional Christianity. They have busied themselves with the boutique activism of the culture wars. They have failed to unequivocally denounce unfettered capitalism, globalization and pre-emptive war. The obsession with personal piety and “How-is-it-with-me?” spirituality that permeates most congregations is undiluted narcissism. And while the Protestant church and reformed Judaism have not replicated the perfidiousness of the Catholic bishops, who protect child-molesting priests, they have little to say in an age when we desperately need moral guidance.

I grew up in the church and graduated from a seminary. It is an institution whose cruelty, inflicted on my father, who was a Presbyterian minister, I know intimately. I do not attend church. The cloying, feel-your-pain language of the average clergy member makes me run for the door. The debates in most churches—whether revolving around homosexuality or biblical interpretation—are a waste of energy. I have no desire to belong to any organization, religious or otherwise, which discriminates, nor will I spend my time trying to convince someone that the raw anti-Semitism in the Gospel of John might not be the word of God. It makes no difference to me if Jesus existed or not. There is no historical evidence that he did. Fairy tales about heaven and hell, angels, miracles, saints, divine intervention and God’s beneficent plan for us are repeatedly mocked in the brutality and indiscriminate killing in war zones, where I witnessed children murdered for sport and psychopathic gangsters elevated to demigods. The Bible works only as metaphor.

The institutional church, when it does speak, mutters pious non-statements that mean nothing. “Given the complexity of factors involved, many of which understandably remain confidential, it is altogether appropriate for members of our armed

forces to presume the integrity of our leadership and its judgments, and therefore to carry out their military duties in good conscience,” Archbishop Edwin F. O’Brien, head of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, wrote about the Iraq war. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, on the eve of the invasion, told believers that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was a menace, and that reasonable people could disagree about the necessity of using force to overthrow him. It assured those who supported the war that God would not object.

B’nai B’rith supported a congressional resolution to authorize the 2003 attack on Iraq. The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, which represents Reform Judaism, agreed it would back unilateral action, as long as Congress approved and the president sought support from other nations. The National Council of Churches, which represents 36 different faith groups, in a typical bromide, urged President George W. Bush to “do all possible” to avoid war with Iraq and to stop “demonizing adversaries or enemies” with good-versus-evil rhetoric, but, like the other liberal religious institutions, did not condemn the war.

A Gallup poll in 2006 found that “the more frequently an American attends church, the less likely he or she is to say the war was a mistake.” Given that Jesus was a pacifist, and given that all of us who graduated from seminary rigorously studied Just War doctrine, which was flagrantly violated by the invasion of Iraq, this is a rather startling statistic.

But I cannot rejoice in the collapse of these institutions. We are not going to be saved by faith in reason, science and technology, which the dead zone of oil forming in the Gulf of Mexico and our production of costly and redundant weapons systems illustrate. Frederick Nietzsche’s Übermensch, or “Superman”—our secular religion—is as fantasy-driven as religious magical thinking.

There remain, in spite of the leaders of these institutions, religiously motivated people toiling in the inner city and the slums of the developing world. They remain true to the core religious and moral values ignored by these institutions. The essential teachings of the monotheistic traditions are now lost in the muck of church dogma, hollow creeds and the banal bureaucracy of institutional religion. These teachings helped create the concept of the individual. The belief that we can exist as distinct beings from the tribe, or the crowd, and that we are called on as individuals to make moral decisions that can defy the clamor of the nation is one of the gifts of religious thought. This call for individual responsibility is coupled with the constant injunctions in Islam, Judaism and Christianity for compassion, especially for the weak, the impoverished, the sick and the outcast.

We are rapidly losing the capacity for the moral life. We reject the anxiety of individual responsibility that laid the foundations for the open society. We are enjoined, after all, to love our neighbor, not our tribe. This empowerment of individual conscience was the starting point of the great ethical systems of all civilizations. Those who championed this radical individualism, from Confucius to Socrates to Jesus, fostered not obedience and conformity, but dissent and self-criticism. They initiated the separation of individual responsibility from the demands of the state. They taught that culture and society were not the sole prerogative of the powerful, that freedom and indeed the religious and moral life required us to often oppose and challenge those in authority, even at great personal cost. Immanuel Kant built his ethics upon this radical individualism. And Kant’s injunction to “always recognize that human individuals are ends, and do not use them as mere means” runs in a direct line from the Socratic ideal and the Christian Gospels.

The great religions set free the critical powers of humankind. They broke with the older Greek and Roman traditions that gods and Destiny ruled human fate—a belief that, when challenged by Socrates, saw him condemned to death. They challenged the power of the tribe, the closed society. They offered up the possibility that human beings, although limited by circumstance and human weakness, could shape and give direction to society and their own lives. These religious thinkers were our first ethicists. And it is perhaps not accidental that the current pope, as well as the last one, drove out of the Catholic Church thousands of clergy and religious leaders who embodied these qualities, elevating the dregs to positions of leadership and leaving the pedophiles to run the Sunday schools.

These religious institutions are in irreversible decline. They are ruled by moral and intellectual trolls. They have become arrogant and self-absorbed. Their sins are many. They protected criminals. They pandered to the lowest common denominator and illusions of personal fulfillment and surrendered their moral authority. They did not fight the corporate tyrants who have impoverished us. They refused to denounce a caste of Christian heretics embodied by the Christian right

and have, for their cowardice, been usurped by bizarre proto-fascists clutching the Christian cross. They have nothing left to say. And their aging congregants, who are fleeing the church in droves, know it. But don't think the world will be a better place for their demise.

As we devolve into a commodity culture, in which celebrity, power and money reign, the older, dimming values of another era are being replaced. We are becoming objects, consumer products and marketable commodities. We have no intrinsic value. We are obsessed with self-presentation. We must remain youthful. We must achieve notoriety and money or the illusion of it. And it does not matter what we do to get there. Success, as Goldman Sachs illustrates, is its own morality. Other people's humiliation, pain and weakness become the fodder for popular entertainment. Education, building community, honesty, transparency and sharing see contestants disappeared from any reality television show or laughed out of any Wall Street firm.

We live in the age of the "Übermensch who rejects the sentimental tenets of traditional religion. The Übermensch creates his own morality based on human instincts, drive and will. We worship the "will to power" and think we have gone "beyond good and evil." We spurn virtue. We think we have the moral fortitude and wisdom to create our own moral code. The high priests of our new religion run Wall Street, the Pentagon and the corporate state. They flood our airwaves with the tawdry and the salacious. They, too, promise a utopia. They redefine truth, beauty, morality, desire and goodness. And we imbibe their poison as blind followers once imbibed the poison of the medieval church.

Nietzsche had his doubts. He suspected that this new secular faith might prefigure an endless middle-class charade. Nietzsche feared the deadening effects of the constant search for material possessions and personal hedonism. Science and technology might rather bring about a new, distorted character Nietzsche called "[the Last Man](#)." The Last Man, Nietzsche feared, would engage in the worst kinds of provincialism, believing he had nothing to learn from history. The Last Man would wallow and revel in his ignorance and quest for personal fulfillment. He would be satisfied with everything that he had done and become, and would seek to become nothing more. He would be intellectually and morally stagnant, incapable of growth, and become part of an easily manipulated herd. The Last Man would mistake cynicism for knowledge.

"The time is coming when man will give birth to no more stars," Nietzsche wrote about the Last Man in the prologue of "Thus Spoke Zarathustra." "Alas! The time of the most contemptible man is coming, the man who can no longer despise himself."

"They are clever and know everything that has ever happened: so there is no end to their mockery." The Last Men indulge in "their little pleasure for the day, and their little pleasure for the night."

The consumer culture, as Nietzsche feared, has turned us into what Chalmers Johnson calls a "consumerist Sparta." The immigrants and the poor, all but invisible to us, work as serfs in this new temple of greed and imperialism. Curtis White in "The Middle Mind" argues that most Americans are aware of the brutality and injustice used to maintain the excesses of their consumer society and empire. He suspects they do not care. They don't want to see what is done in their name. They do not want to look at the rows of flag-draped coffins or the horribly maimed bodies and faces of veterans or the human suffering in the blighted and deserted former manufacturing centers. It is too upsetting. Government and corporate censorship is welcomed and appreciated. It ensures that we remain Last Men. And the death of religious institutions will only cement into place the new secular religion of the Last Man, the one that worships military power, personal advancement, hedonism and greed, the one that justifies our ruthless callousness toward the weak and the poor.

© 2010 TruthDig.com

Chris Hedges writes a regular column for Truthdig.com. Hedges graduated from Harvard Divinity School and was for nearly two decades a foreign correspondent for The New York Times. He is the author of many books, including: [War Is A Force That Gives Us Meaning](#), [What Every Person Should Know About War](#), and [American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America](#). His most recent book is [Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle](#).

TruthDig [home page](#)

Pedophiles and Popes: Doing the Vatican Shuffle

by Michael Parenti [article link](#)

May 10, 2010 by CommonDreams.org

Michael Parenti [home page](#)

CommonDreams [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:31 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Sunday, May 9, 2010

Peter Laarman: Blood for Oil: Our Lethal Lust for Energy

Blood for Oil: Our Lethal Lust for Energy

By Peter Laarman [article link](#)

May 4, 2010 Religion Dispatches

I know I'm not the only person linking the [mine disaster](#) in West Virginia to the oil spill catastrophe in the Gulf. I felt the irony in the fact that the Deepwater Horizon platform collapsed and sank on Earth Day. I felt the inconvenient truth in Dan Wasserman's Boston Globe cartoon picturing one mournful and sooty miner telling another: "Folks on Nantucket worry that windmills will spoil their view."

We shouldn't let spinning windmills in the current news cycle spoil our view of the deeper message from the oil-slicked Gulf. Many of the windier pundits are saying that these horrific events highlight the need to conserve energy and convert as soon as possible to renewable sources. Other huffer-puffers counter that it's naive to think that conversion can happen at anything more than a (shrinking) glacial pace. Both sides have a point, but it's not my point.

Religiously, I want to urge that we view mineral and energy extraction as a form of unacknowledged violence against Mother Earth. We Westerners are convicted matricidal batterers, and we might wish to pause a moment to think about that. But it's not just Gaia we've been assaulting: it's also her most exposed and vulnerable human children. Almost every form of mineral and energy extraction entails severe exploitation of workers and their families: from the diamond mines of Africa to the copper mines of Chile to the hideous suffering surrounding coal mines just about everywhere. I need hardly mention the appalling and chaotic [conditions](#) that still prevail in the despoiled Niger River delta.

Lisa Margonelli reminded us in a Sunday New York Times [op-ed](#) that we deceive ourselves when we talk about curtailing our own oil extraction for environmental reasons: all we do by declining to drill here is "end up getting people to drill for us in Kazakhstan, Angola, and Nigeria." That's as long as we keep on guzzling oil at the rate we do, which it appears we are not about to stop doing. Margonelli also noted that since the first Earth Day 40 years ago, we have increased our automobile fuel consumption by two-thirds while quadrupling the amount of petroleum we import.

Because we are locked into a particular kind of oil addiction, the extreme violence lurking just beneath the surface of the addiction has become all but invisible to us. Many of our business and academic elites even consider very rapid fossil fuel extraction to represent "normal" behavior for a developed economy; but it really isn't. Considered over the longer arc of human existence, our practice of drilling incessantly for liquid gold and then gulping it down as fast as possible represents a freakish aberration and a shockingly risky thing to do. More shocking and more risky, even, than the continuing folly of creating a financialized casino economy that remains vulnerable to bubbles and speculation.

And here we must acknowledge the extent to which an insane lust for mineral wealth is a Western phenomenon, albeit one that is now fully emulated by the Chinese. I will step right into what, in this case, is a helpful and illuminating cliché. Westerners made a horrible Faustian bargain in assuming that we had an unlimited right to extract wealth from the bowels of the earth, using almost unlimited violence to unleash vast mineral power that we use in turn to support unlimited

consumption. The Mephistopheles figures in our generations-long seduction have been “Drill, baby, drill!” figures who long preceded Ms. Palin (just think of Sir Cecil Rhodes and Sir H. Rider Haggard of actual and fabulist African fame).

Again, we rarely consider the interconnections between mineral lust and lethal violence. But it really should come as no surprise that the level of violence and injustice surrounding mineral extraction and mineral processing matches the intense level of greed that has been triggered historically by dreams of buried mineral treasure—a greed that begins with the primal lust for gold but certainly extends to gems, iron, copper, bauxite, coal, and oil. As the prophets of old tried to tell us, the cult of Mammon is a surpassingly cruel one: no amount of human sacrifice is unacceptable or unimaginable where the relentless pursuit of glittering riches is concerned. “Blood Diamonds” is actually an appropriate tag for all forms of mineral wealth; all of it is won and held at the price of rivers of blood and suffering.

Sigmund Freud is our great spiritual pioneer in this somewhat dim and cave-like arena, and it’s not too much to say that he has mined this still-little-understood psychological territory. Freud observed that we are obsessive and secretive about hoarding and depositing wealth in much the same way that we’re obsessive and secretive about depositing our shit. There’s a lethal mania here, and tremendous violence coils around our wish to extract and secure hidden wealth. But Freud is not alone in exploring this troubled nexus and recognizing its fateful importance for who we have become. Aggressive wealth extraction and aggressive wealth accumulation are psychologically and spiritually linked behaviors. And they do seem to belong, one regrets to say, to a peculiarly Western disposition. Ours is a sorrowful, if stupendous, golden hoard.

If I might be permitted to wax biblical, I would say that what we have been pleased to call Western civilization bears the mark of Cain just a bit. Maybe it’s finally time for us to try to shed some of our Cain-line violence and try to recover some of the Abel part of our inheritance. Because there actually is another way to live on the earth: an alternative to battering the created order and ruthlessly extracting private wealth. There is also the Peaceable Kingdom approach, the nonviolent pastoral approach, the way of the happy shepherd. Sweet dead Abel!

I noted earlier that it’s doubtful we will stop guzzling oil like drunken lords any time soon. And thus I despair that we will save ourselves or save our bright blue-green planet from asphyxiation. But maybe (just maybe) if the unfolding apocalyptic scenes of utterly ruined seascapes and blasted landscapes become sufficiently lurid, we will reach a kind of psychic rupture and then perhaps even experience a dramatic conversion.

Maybe we will look at our petroleum-drenched lives and finally say: “Do we really even like the way we’re living?” Maybe we will figure out that dear old William Blake, that prophetic denouncer of England’s dark satanic mills, was also prescient in conceiving of energy differently from the coal and iron barons of his time—or from the petro-potentates of our own—in speaking of energy as “[eternal delight](#).”

If we could experience a dramatic conversion in that way I think that God’s great heart would rejoice—and I know for sure that Mother Earth would smile to see her prodigal children finally repent of their profligate ways and begin to live with a lick of sense.

Peter Laarman is executive director of Progressive Christians Uniting, a network of activist individuals and congregations headquartered in Los Angeles. He served as the senior minister of New York’s Judson Memorial Church from 1994 to 2004. Ordained in the United Church of Christ, Peter spent 15 years as a labor movement strategist and communications specialist prior to training for the ministry.

© 2010 Religion Dispatches. All rights reserved.

Religion Dispatches [Articles](#) by Peter Laarman
Religion Dispatches [home page](#)

Gulf Oil Spill:

A Symbol Of What Fossil Fuels Do To The Earth Every Day, Say Environmentalists

by Dan Froomkin [article link](#)

05-6-10 | HuffPost | froomkin@huffingtonpost.com

The Huffington Post [home page](#)

 [Share](#) / [Save](#)   

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:24 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Harry Kreisler: The Downward Slope of Empire

The Downward Slope of Empire

Talking With Chalmers Johnson

by Harry Kreisler [article link](#) [article link](#)

May 07, 2010 "Counterpunch"

Chalmers Johnson, president of the Japan Policy Research Institute, is the author of the bestselling [Blowback](#) and [The Sorrows of Empire](#). He appeared in the 2005 prizewinning documentary film *Why We Fight*. He lives near San Diego.

Kreisler: Once upon a time you called yourself a “spear-carrier for the empire.”

Johnson: “—for the empire,” yes, yes.

That’s the prologue to [Blowback](#); I was a consultant to the Office of National Estimates of the CIA during the time of the Vietnam War. But what caused me to change my mind and to rethink these issues? Two things: one analytical, one concrete. The first was the demise of the Soviet Union. I expected much more from the United States in the way of a peace dividend. I believe that Russia today is not the former Soviet Union by any means. It’s a much smaller place. I would have expected that as a tradition in the United States, we would have demobilized much more radically. We would have rethought more seriously our role in the world, brought home troops in places like Okinawa. Instead, we did every thing in our power to shore up the Cold War structures in East Asia, in Latin America. The search for new enemies began. That’s the neoconservatives. I was shocked, actually, by this. Did this mean that the Cold War was a cover for something deeper, for an American imperial project that had been in the works since World War II? I began to believe that this is the case.

The second thing that led me to write *Blowback* in the late 1990s was something concrete. Okinawa prefecture, which is Japan’s southernmost prefecture, is the poorest place in Japan, the equivalent of Puerto Rico; it’s always been discriminated against by the Japanese since they seized it at the end of the nineteenth century. The governor at that time, Masahide Ota, is a former professor. He invited me to Okinawa in February of 1996 to give a speech to his associates in light of what had happened on September 4, 1995, when two marines and a sailor from Camp Hansen in central Okinawa abducted, beat, and raped a twelve-year-old girl. It led to the biggest single demonstration against the United States since the Security Treaty was signed. I had not been in Okinawa before. Back during the Korean War, when I was in the navy, I took the ship in to what was then called Buckner Bay, now Nakagusuku Bay, and dropped anchor. Other officers on board went ashore. I took a look at the place through the glasses, and I thought, “This is not for me.” But we were anchored in the most beautiful lagoon, so I went swimming around the ship. So I had been in Okinawan waters, but I’d never touched ground before.

I have to say I was shocked to see the impact of thirty-eight American bases located on an island smaller than Kauai in the Hawaiian Islands, with 1.3 million people living cheek-by-jowl with warplanes . . . the Third Marine Division is based there; the only marine division we have outside the country. And I began to investigate the issues.

The reaction to the rape of 1995 from, for example, General Richard Meyers, who became chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—he was then head of U.S. forces in Japan—and all he said was that these were just three bad apples, a tragic incident, unbelievably exceptional. After research, you discover that the rate of sexually violent crimes committed by our troops in Okinawa leading to court-martial is two per month! This was not an exceptional incident, except for the fact that the child was so young and, differing from many Okinawan women who would not come forward after being raped, she was not fully socialized and she wanted to get even. This led to the creation of a quite powerful organization that I greatly admire called Okinawan Women Act Against Military Violence.

I began to research Okinawa, and my first impulse—again, as a defensive American imperialist—was that Okinawa was exceptional: it's off the beaten track, the press never goes there, the military is comfortable. I discovered over time, looking at these kinds of bases and other places around the world, that there's nothing exceptional about it. It's typical. Maybe the concentration is a little greater than it is elsewhere, but the record of environmental damage, sexual crimes, bar brawls, drunken driving, one thing after another, these all occur in the 725 bases (the Department of Defense—acknowledged number; the real number is actually considerably larger than that) that we have in other people's countries. That led me to write *Blowback*, first as a warning.

But it also led you to publish this book [Okinawa: Cold War Island](#), edited by you, which looks at the various aspects of this. And what you're saying is, it's not only the social cost; it has impinged on the people of Okinawa's right to have some kind of democratic existence.

Essentially, Okinawa is used as a dumping ground by the Japanese. They want the security treaty, but they don't want American troops anywhere near mainland Japanese. So they put them down, as I say, in the equivalent of Puerto Rico, and the conditions fester. The governor of Okinawa today, a very considerably conservative man, Mr. Inamine, is still, nonetheless, always saying, "We're living on the side of a volcano. You can hear the magma down there. It may blow. And when it does, it'll have the same effect on your empire that the breaching of the Berlin Wall had on the Soviet empire."

In one of your books you say that as a consultant or an adviser to the CIA, you were not impressed with the reports and analysis that you were viewing. So we were not in a position to understand what was going on, just as a matter of the information we were getting.

This is what blowback means. "Blowback" is a CIA term that means retaliation, or payback. It was first used in the after-action report on our first clandestine overthrow of a foreign government, the overthrow of Mossadegh in Iran in 1953, when, for the sake of the British Petroleum Company, we claimed he was a Communist when he just didn't want the British to keep stealing Iranian resources. In the report, which was finally declassified in 2000, the CIA says, "We should expect some blowback from what we have done here." This was the first model clandestine operation.

By blowback we do not mean just the unintended consequences of events. We mean unintended consequences of events that were kept secret from the American public, so that when the retaliation comes, the public has no way to put it into context. Just as after 9/11, you have the president saying, "Why do they hate us?" The people on the receiving end know full well that they hate us because of what was done to them. It's the American public that is in the dark on that subject.

I conceived of *Blowback*—written in 1999, published in 2000—as a warning to the American public. It was: you should expect retaliation from the people on the receiving end of now innumerable clandestine activities, including the biggest one of all, the recruiting, arming, and putting into combat of mujahideen fighters in Afghanistan in the 1980s who are the main recruiting group for Al Qaeda today.

The warning was not heeded. The book, when it was first published, was more or less ignored in this country. It was very nicely received in Germany, and in Japan, and in Italy, in places like that. But then after 9/11, when all of a sudden, inattentive Americans were mobilized to seek, at least on an emergency basis, some understanding of what they were into, it became a best-seller.

You're raising a very important point, which is that our policies often lack an understanding of our own actions. But also—

Not just lack of understanding. They've been kept secret. That's why the subtitle of [The Sorrows of Empire](#) is "Militarism, Secrecy"—I want to stress secrecy and say a word or two about that in a moment—"and the End of the Republic."

Two days after 9/11, when the president addressed Congress and asked rhetorically, "Why do they hate us?" my response was: "The people immediately around you are the ones who could tell you with precision why. That is, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Rice, Colin Powell, Richard Armitage"—these are the people who ran the largest clandestine operation we ever carried out, in Afghanistan in the 1980s.

“They could explain to you, in detail, why.” Once the Soviet Union had been expelled in 1989 from Afghanistan and we simply walked away from it, the people we had recruited, trained, and equipped with things like Stinger missiles—the first time the Stinger was ever used against a Soviet gunship was in Afghanistan. Once we had achieved our purposes, we just walked away, and these highly armed young men felt, “We’ve been used. We were cannon fodder in a little exercise in the Cold War, in a bipolar competition between the Soviet Union and the United States.” Then we compounded that with further mistakes like placing infidel troops (our troops) in Saudi Arabia after 1991, which was insulting to any number of Saudi Arabians, who believe that they are responsible for the most sacred sites in Islam: Mecca and Medina. Osama bin Laden is so typical of the kinds of figures in our history, like Manuel Noriega or Saddam Hussein, who were close allies of ours at one time. We know Saddam at one time had weapons of mass destruction because we have the receipts!

Osama bin Laden comes from a wealthy family of a construction empire in Saudi Arabia. He’s the sort of person that you would more likely expect to see on the ski slopes of Gstaad with a Swiss girl on his arm, or as a houseguest in Kennebunkport with the first President Bush and the notorious “petroleum complex” of America. But he was insulted. He had been in Afghanistan. The base where he trained mujahideen, at Khost, the CIA built for him. It was one of the few times we knew where to hit. Because we built it, we did know where they were. He then was disgusted with us and certainly gave us fair warning in the attack in 1993 on the World Trade Center.

Talk a little about what militarism is, and what imperialism is.

What I want to introduce here is what I call the “base world.” According to the “Base Structure Report”, an annual report of the Department of Defense, in the year 2002 we had 725 bases in other people’s countries. Actually, that number understates in that it does not include any of the espionage bases of the National Security Agency, such as RAF Menwith Hill in Yorkshire.

So these are bases where we have listening devices?

These are huge bases. Menwith Hill downloads every single e-mail, telephone call, and fax between Europe and the United States every day and puts them into massive computers where dictionaries then read them out. There are hundreds of these. The official Base Structure Report also doesn’t include any of the main bases in England disguised as Royal Air Force bases even though there are no Britons on them. It doesn’t include any of the bases in Uzbekistan or Kyrgyzstan, any of the bases in Afghanistan, the four bases that are, as we talk, being built in Iraq. They put down one major marine base for Okinawa—there are ten—and things like that. So there is a lot of misleading information in it, but it’s enough to say 700 looks like a pretty good number, whereas it’s probably around 1,000.

The base world is secret. Americans don’t know anything about it. The Congress doesn’t do oversight on it. You must remember, 40 percent of the defense budget is black. No congressman can see it. All of the intelligence budgets are black.

No public discussion.

In violation of the first article of the Constitution that says, “The American public shall be given, annually, a report on how their tax money was spent.” That has not been true in the United States since the Manhattan Project of World War II, even though it is the clause that gives Congress the power of the purse, the power to supervise.

The base world is complex. It has its own airline. It has 234 golf courses around the world. It has something like seventy Lear Jet luxury airplanes to fly generals and admirals to the golf courses, to the armed forces ski resort at Garmisch in the Bavarian Alps. Inside the bases, the military does every thing in its power to make them look like Little America.

There are large numbers of women in the armed forces to-day, [yet] you can’t get an abortion at a military hospital abroad. Sexual assaults are not at all uncommon in the armed forces. If you were a young woman in the armed forces today and you were based in Iraq, and you woke up one morning and found yourself pregnant, you have no choice but to go on the open market in Baghdad looking for an abortion, which is not a very happy thought.

Militarism is not defense of the country. By militarism, I mean corporate interest in a military way of life. It derives above all from the fact that service in the armed forces is, today, not an obligation of citizenship. It is a career choice. It has been since 1973. I thought it was wonderful when PFC Jessica Lynch, who was wounded at Nasiriyah, was asked by the press, “Why did you join the Army?” She said, “I come from Palestine, West Virginia; I couldn’t get a job at Wal-Mart.” She said, “I joined the Army to get out of Palestine, West Virginia”—a perfectly logical answer on her part. And it’s true of a great many people in the ranks today. They do not expect to be shot at. That’s one of the points you should understand; it’s a career choice, like a kid deciding to work his way up to Berkeley by going through a community college, and a state college, and then transferring in at the last minute or something like that.

Standing behind it is the military-industrial complex. We must, once again, bear in mind the powerful warnings of probably the two most prominent generals in our history. George Washington, in his farewell address, warns about the threat of standing armies to liberty, and particularly republican liberty. He was not an isolationist; he was talking about what moves power toward the imperial presidency, toward the state. It requires more taxes. Everything else which he said has come true. The other, perhaps more famous one was Dwight Eisenhower in his farewell address, where he invented the phrase “military-industrial complex.” We now know that he intended to say “military-industrial-congressional complex,” but he was advised not to go that far.

What interests me here is that we’re talking about something that looks very much like the end of the Roman Republic—which was, in many ways, a model for our own republic—and its conversion into a military dictatorship called the Roman Empire as the troops began to take over. The kind of figure that the Roman Republic began to look for was a military populist; of course, the most obvious example was Julius Caesar. But after Caesar’s assassination in 44B.C., the young Octavian becomes the “god” Augustus Caesar.

I’m not trying to be a sensationalist, but I actually do worry about the future of the United States; whether, in fact, we are tending in the same path as the former Soviet Union, with domestic, ideological rigidity in our economic institutions, imperial overstretch—that’s what we’re talking about here—the belief that we have to be every where at all times. We have always been a richer place than Russia was, so it will take longer. But we’re overextended. We can’t afford it.

One of my four “sorrows of empire” at the end of the book is bankruptcy. The military is not productive. They do provide certain kinds of jobs, as you discover in the United States whenever you try and close a military base—no matter how conservative or liberal your congressional representatives are, they will go mad to try and keep it open, keep it functioning. And the military-industrial complex is very clever in making sure that the building of a B-2 bomber is spread around the country; it is not all located at Northrop in El Segundo, California.

I have grave difficulty believing that that any president can bring under control the Pentagon, the secret intelligence agencies, the military-industrial complex. The Department of Defense is not, today, a department of defense. It’s an alternative seat of government on the south bank of the Potomac River. And, typical of militarism, it’s expanding into many, many other areas in our life that we have, in our traditional political philosophy, reserved for civilians. [For example,] domestic policing: they’re slowly expanding into that.

Probably the most severe competition in our government today is between the Special Forces in the DOD and the CIA over who runs clandestine operations.

What you’re really saying is that, lo and behold, we’ve created an empire of bases, a different kind of empire, and that it’s basically changing who we are and the way our government operates.

The right phrase is exactly what you said: “lo and behold.” It reminds you of the Roman Republic, which existed in its final form with very considerable rights for Roman citizens, much like ours, for about two centuries. James Madison and others, in writing the defense of the Constitution in the Federalist Papers, signed their name “Publius.” Well, who is Publius? He was the first Roman consul. That is where the whole world of term limits, of separation of powers, things like that, [began].

Yet by the end of the first century B.C., Rome had seemingly “inadvertently” acquired an empire that surrounded the entire Mediterranean Sea. They then discovered that the inescapable accompaniment, the Siamese twin of imperialism, is

militarism. You start needing standing armies. You start having men who are demobilized after having spent their entire lives in the military. It's expensive to pay them. You have to provide them, in the Roman Empire, with farms or things of this sort. They become irritated with the state. And then along comes a military populist, a figure who says, "I understand your problems. I will represent your interests against the Roman Senate. The only requirement is that I become dictator for life." Certainly, Julius Caesar is the model for this . . . Napoleon Bonaparte, Juan Perón, this is the type of figure.

Indeed, one wonders whether we have already crossed our Rubicon, whether we can go back. I don't know.

In your indictment of what we are becoming, or maybe have become, you go through a list. We can't do all of it; we don't have enough time. But, essentially, civilians who think in military ways now making decisions, the Pentagon expropriating the functions of the State Department, a policy being perceived as military policy as opposed to all of the dimensions of—

People around the world who meet Americans meet soldiers. That's how we represent ourselves abroad, just as the Roman Empire represented itself abroad as the Legionaires. People have to conclude, even if they don't come into military or armed conflict with us, that this is the way the Americans think. This is the way they represent themselves today. It's not foreign aid any longer. It's not our diplomats. It's not the Fulbright program. It's the military. It's uniformed eighteen- to twenty-four-year-old young men and some young women.

As a student of Asian political economy, you wrote the classic on MITI. In the final analysis, your judgment is that we will not only suffer political but also economic bankruptcy.

So, what do I suggest probably will happen? I think we will stagger along under a façade of constitutional government, as we are now, until we're overcome by bankruptcy. We are not paying our way. We're financing it off of huge loans coming daily from our two leading creditors, Japan and China.

It's a rigged system that reminds you of Herb Stein, [who], when he was chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers in a Republican administration, rather famously said, "Things that can't go on forever don't." That's what we're talking about today. We're massively indebted, we're not manufacturing as much as we used to, we maintain our lifestyle off huge capital imports from countries that don't mind taking a short, small beating on the exchange rates so long as they can continue to develop their own economies and supply Americans: above all, China within twenty to twenty-five years will be both the world's largest social system and the world's most productive social system, barring truly unforeseen developments.

Bankruptcy would not mean the literal end of the United States, any more than it did for Germany in 1923, or China in 1948, or Argentina just a few years ago, in 2001 and 2002. But it would certainly mean a catastrophic recession, the collapse of our stock exchange, the end of our level of living, and a vast series of new attitudes that would now be appropriate to a much poorer country. Marshall Auerbach is a financial analyst whom I admire who refers to the United States as a "Blanche Dubois economy." Blanche Dubois, of course, was the leading character in Tennessee Williams's play *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and she said, "I've always depended upon the kindness of strangers." We're also increasingly dependent on the kindness of strangers, and there are not many of them left who care, any more than there were for Blanche. I suspect if the United States did start to go down, it would not elicit any more tears than the collapse of the Soviet Union did.

Do you see a configuration of external power, Japan, China, the EU, that will be a balancer that might not just confront us but might help guide us to changes that would be good for us and them?

Once you go down the path of empire, you inevitably start a process of overstretch, of tendencies toward bankruptcy, and, in the rest of the world, a tendency toward the uniting of people who are opposed to your imperialism simply on grounds that it's yours, but maybe also on the grounds that you're incompetent at it. There was a time when the rest of the world did trust the United States a good deal as a result of the Marshall Plan, foreign aid, things of this sort. They probably trusted it more than they should have. Today that is almost entirely dissipated. At some point, we must either reduce our empire of bases from 737 to maybe 37—although I'd just as soon get rid of all of them. If we don't start doing that, then we will go the way of the former Soviet Union.

Harry Kreisler's interview with Chalmers Johnson is taken from his new book [Political Awakenings](#), just published by the New Press, printed here by permission of the publisher.

Copyright 2010 Harry Kreisler.

CounterPunch [home page](#)

Information Clearing House [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:16 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Saturday, May 8, 2010

[Jack A Smith: A Lot More War](#)

Look Out, Obama Seems to Be Planning for a Lot More War

By Jack A Smith [article link](#)

May 8, 2010 Asia Times | Alternet

There's more war in America's future - a great deal more, judging by the Barack Obama administration's reports, pronouncements and actions in recent months.

These documents and deeds include the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR), the Ballistic Missile Defense Report, the nuclear security summit in New York and the May 3-28 United Nations nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference, as well as the continuing wars in the Middle East and Central Asia, and the 2011 Pentagon war budget request.

The United States government presides as a military colossus of unrivalled dimension, but the QDR, which was published in February, suggests Washington views America as being constantly under the threat of attack from a multitude of fearsome forces bent on its destruction. As such, trillions more dollars must be invested in present and future wars - ostensibly to make safe the besieged homeland.

The NPR says the long-range US goal is a "nuclear-free" world, but despite token reductions in its arsenal of such weapons, the Pentagon is strengthening its nuclear force and bolstering it with a devastating "conventional deterrent" intended to strike any target in the world within one hour. In addition this document, published in April, retains "hair-trigger" nuclear launch readiness, refuses to declare its nuclear force is for deterrence only (suggesting offensive use) and for the first time authorizes a nuclear attack, if necessary, on a non-nuclear state (Iran).

Meanwhile, Obama is vigorously expanding the George W Bush administration's wars, and enhancing and deploying America's unparalleled military power.

The Obama administration's one positive achievement in terms of militarism and war was the April 9 signing in Prague of the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with Russia that reduces deployed strategic nuclear weapons to 1,550 warheads each. It was a step forward, but all agree it was extremely modest, and it does not even faintly diminish the danger of nuclear war.

The QDR is a 128-page Defense Department report mandated by congress to be compiled every four years to put forward a 20-year projection of US military planning. A 20-member civilian panel, selected by the Pentagon and congress, analyzes the document and suggests changes in order to provide an "independent" perspective. Eleven of the members, including the panel's co-chairmen - former defense secretary William Perry and former national security adviser Stephen Hadley - are employed by the defense industry.

Although the Pentagon is working on preparations for a possible World War III and beyond, the new report is largely focused on the relatively near future and only generalizes about the longer term. Of the QDR's many priorities three stand out.

The first priority is to "prevail in today's wars" in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Yemen and wherever else Washington's post-9/11 military intrusions penetrate in coming years. Introducing the report February 1, Bush-Obama Defense Secretary Robert Gates issued this significant statement: "Success in wars to come will depend on success in these wars in progress." The "wars to come" were not identified. Further, the QDR states that military victory in Iraq and Afghanistan is "only the first step toward achieving our strategic objectives".

Second, while in the past the US concentrated on the ability to fight two big wars simultaneously, the QDR suggests that's not enough. Now, the Obama administration posits the "need for a robust force capable of protecting US interests against a multiplicity of threats, including two capable nation-state aggressors."

Now it's two-plus wars - the plus being the obligation to "conduct large-scale counter-insurgency, stability and counter-terrorism operations in a wide range of environments", mainly in small, poor countries like Afghanistan. Other "plus" targets include "non-state actors" such as al-Qaeda, "failed states" such as Somali, and medium-size but well-defended states that do not bend the knee to Uncle Sam, such as Iran or the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and some day perhaps Venezuela.

Third, it's fairly obvious from the QDR, though not acknowledged, that the Obama government believes China and Russia are the two possible "nation-state aggressors" against which Washington must prepare to "defend" itself. Neither Beijing nor Moscow has taken any action to justify the Pentagon's assumption that they will ever be suicidal enough to attack the far more powerful United States.

After all, the US, with 4.54% of the world's population, invests more on war and war preparations than the rest of the world combined. Obama's 2010 Pentagon budget is US\$680 billion, but the real total is double that when all Washington's national security expenditures in other departmental budgets are also included, such as the cost of nuclear weapons, the 16 intelligence agencies, Homeland Security and interest on war debts, among other programs.

Annual war-related expenditures are well over \$1 trillion. In calling for a discretionary freeze on government programs in January's state of the union address, Obama specifically exempted Pentagon/national security expenditures from the freeze. Obama is a big war spender. His \$708 billion Pentagon allotment for fiscal 2011 (not counting a pending \$33 billion Congress will approve for the Afghan "surge") exceeds Bush's highest budget of \$651 billion for fiscal 2009.

At present, US military power permeates the entire world. As the QDR notes: "The United States is a global power with global responsibilities. Including operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, approximately 400,000 US military personnel are forward-stationed or rotationally deployed around the world."

The Pentagon presides over 1,000 overseas military bases (including those in the war zones), great fleets in every ocean, a globe-spanning air force, military satellites in space and nuclear missiles on hair trigger alert pre-targeted on "enemy" or potential "enemy" cities and military facilities. A reading of the QDR shows none of this will change except for upgrading, enlarging (the Pentagon just added six new bases in Colombia) and adding new systems such as Prompt Global Strike, an important new offensive weapon system, which we shall discuss below.

The phrase "full spectrum military dominance" - an expression concocted by the neo-conservatives in the 1990s that was adopted by the Bush administration to define its aggressive military strategy - was cleverly not included in the 2010 QDR, but retaining and augmenting dominance remains the Pentagon's prime preoccupation.

The QDR is peppered with expressions such as "America's interests and role in the world require armed forces with unmatched capabilities" and calls for "the continued dominance of America's Armed Forces in large-scale force-on-force warfare". Gates went further in his February 1 press conference: "The United States needs a broad portfolio of military

capabilities, with maximum versatility across the widest possible spectrum of conflicts." Obama bragged recently that he commanded "the finest military in the history of the world".

Evidently, the Pentagon is planning to engage in numerous future wars interrupted by brief periods of peace while preparing for the next war. Given that the only entity expressing an interest in attacking the United States is al-Qaeda - a non-government paramilitary organization of extreme religious fanatics with about a thousand reliable active members around the world - it is obvious that America's unprecedented military might is actually intended for another purpose.

In our view that "other purpose" is geopolitical - to strengthen even further the Pentagon's military machine to assure that the United States retains its position as the dominant global hegemon at a time of acute indebtedness, the severe erosion of its manufacturing base, near gridlock in domestic politics, and the swift rise to global prominence of several other nations and blocs.

The QDR touches on this with admirable delicacy: "The distribution of global political, economic and military power is shifting and becoming more diffuse. The rise of China, the world's most populous country, and India, the world's largest democracy, will continue to reshape the international system. While the United States will remain the most powerful actor, it must increasingly cooperate with key allies and partners to build and sustain peace and security. Whether and how rising powers fully integrate into the global system will be among this century's defining questions, and are thus central to America's interests."

At the moment, the QDR indicates Washington is worried about foreign "anti-access" strategies that limit its "power projection capabilities" in various parts of the world. What this means is that certain countries such as China and Russia are developing sophisticated new weapons that match those of the US, thus "impeding" the deployment of American forces to wherever the Pentagon desires. For instance:

China is developing and fielding large numbers of advanced medium-range ballistic and cruise missiles, new attack submarines equipped with advanced weapons, increasingly capable long-range air defense systems, electronic warfare and computer network attack capabilities, advanced fighter aircraft and counter-space systems. China has shared only limited information about the pace, scope and ultimate aims of its military modernization programs, raising a number of legitimate questions regarding its long-term intentions.

To counter this trend in China and elsewhere, the Pentagon is planning, at a huge and unannounced cost, the following enhancements: "Expand future long-range strike capabilities; Exploit advantages in subsurface operations; Increase the resiliency of US forward posture and base infrastructure; Assure access to space and the use of space assets; Enhance the robustness of key ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) capabilities; Defeat enemy sensors and engagement systems; and Enhance the presence and responsiveness of US forces abroad."

In addition, the US not only targets China with nuclear missiles and bombs, it is surrounding the country (and Russia as well, of course) with anti-ballistic missiles. The purpose is plain: In case the US finds it "necessary" to launch ballistic missiles toward China, the ABMs will be able to destroy its limited retaliatory capacity.

According to an article in the February 22 issue of China Daily, the country's English-language newspaper: "Washington appears determined to surround China with US-built anti-missile systems, military scholars have observed ... Air force colonel Dai Xu, a renowned military strategist, wrote in an article released this month that 'China is in a crescent-shaped ring of encirclement. The ring begins in Japan, stretches through nations in the South China Sea to India, and ends in Afghanistan'."

Compared to the Bush administration's 2006 QDR, there has been a conscious effort to tone down the anti-China rhetoric in the current document. But it is entirely clear that China is number one in the QDR's references to "potentially hostile nation states".

According to the February 18 Defense News, a publication that serves the military-industrial complex, "Analysts say the QDR attempts to address the threat posed by China without further enraging Beijing. 'If you look at the list of further enhancements to US forces and capabilities ... those are primarily capabilities needed for defeating China, not Iran, North Korea or Hezbollah,' said Roger Cliff, a China military specialist at Rand. 'So even though not a lot of time is spent naming China ... analysis of the China threat is nonetheless driving a lot of the modernization programs described in the QDR'."

Incidentally, according to the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, this year's Chinese defense budget, for a country four times larger than the United States, is \$78 billion, compared to the \$664 billion for the Pentagon (without all the national security extras harbored in other department budgets). China possesses 100-200 nuclear warheads compared to America's 9,326 (when both deployed and stored weapons are included). China is contemplating the construction of an aircraft carrier; the US Navy floats 11 of them. China has no military bases abroad.

In our view, China appears to be constructing weapons for defense, not offense against the US - and its foreign policy is based on refusing to be pushed around by Washington while doing everything possible to avoid a serious confrontation.

Russia as well is treated better in the new QDR than in 2006, but it is included with China in most cases. Despite Moscow's huge nuclear deterrent and abundant oil and gas supplies, it's only "potential enemy" number two in terms of the big powers. Washington feels more threatened by Beijing. This is largely because of China's size, rapid development, fairly successful state-guided capitalist economy directed by the Communist Party, and the fact that it is on the road to becoming the world's economic leader, surpassing the US in 20 to 40 years.

It seems fairly obvious, but hardly mentioned publicly, that this is an extremely dangerous situation. China does not seek to dominate the world, nor will it allow itself to be dominated. Beijing supports the concept of a multipolar world order, with a number of countries and blocs playing roles. At issue, perhaps, is who will be first among equals.

Washington prefers the situation that has existed these 20 years after the implosion of the Soviet Union and much of the socialist world left the United States as the remaining military superpower and boss of the expanded capitalist bloc. During this time Washington has functioned as the unipolar world hegemon and doesn't want to relinquish the title.

This is all changing now as other countries rise, led by China, and the US appears to be in gradual decline. How the transition to multi-polarity is handled over the next couple of decades may determine whether or not a disastrous war will be avoided.

Jack A Smith is editor of the [Hudson Valley Activist Newsletter](#) in New York State and the former editor of the Guardian Newsweekly (US). He may be reached at jacdon@earthlink.net

© 2010 Asia Times All rights reserved.

OBAMA'S WAR MACHINE, Part 1 The Pentagon's game plan

By Jack A Smith [article link](#) Asia Times

OBAMA'S WAR MACHINE, Part 2 America's nuclear intentions

By Jack A Smith [article link](#) Asia Times

Asia Times [front page](#)

AlterNet [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:24 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Andy Kroll: Why Didn't Obama Back Busting Up Big Banks?

Why Didn't Obama Back Busting Up Big Banks?

On the question of too-big-to-fail financial institutions, the White House declined to put its money where its mouth is.

by Andy Kroll [article link](#)

May. 7, 2010 Mother Jones

Late on Thursday night, an effort to rein in the mega-banks that brought the American economy to the brink of disaster died on the Senate floor. Sens. Ted Kaufman (D-Del.) and Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) had offered an amendment that would have broken up the biggest banks and forced them to scale back the amount of money they borrow to amplify their bets in the financial markets (a reform known as leverage limits). Experts said the Kaufman-Brown amendment, which failed by a vote of 60-33, would have helped safeguard the economy against another crisis. So why did the Obama administration, which has urged Congress to overhaul the financial system, distance itself from—and even oppose—this measure?

The Kaufman-Brown amendment would have barred any single bank-holding company from owning more than 10 percent of the nation's total deposits. A bank couldn't hold non-deposit risks—including complex financial products such as derivatives—exceeding 2 percent of the nation's gross domestic product (currently about \$14.6 trillion). And non-bank institutions, such as subprime lenders, couldn't hold liabilities exceeding 3 percent of GDP. If the amendment passed, Kaufman said, Citigroup, whose balance sheet totals more than \$1 trillion, would have been compelled to shrink to half its current size—or what it looked like circa 2002. Goldman Sachs, with a balance sheet of \$850 billion, would have needed to reduce its liabilities to \$450 billion.

You might think the Obama administration would have cheered this proposal. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner wrote in April that, "We must...push to make sure the government has real authority to help end the problem of 'too big to fail.'" Yet the White House declined to throw its weight behind the measure. On Thursday, Deputy Treasury Secretary Neil Wolin wouldn't say whether White House supported the amendment or not. In fact, he appeared to undermine it by adding that size wasn't the most important issue in preventing banks from becoming too big to fail. American Banker reported that on Wednesday Austan Goolsbee, a top White House economist, had criticized the idea of capping the size of the biggest banks, arguing that the key problem was instead the amount of risk on their balance sheets. Goolsbee characterized the Kaufman-Brown proposal as "why don't we smash anybody that is as big as 'X'...and that would end too big to fail." And although Treasury Secretary Geithner has said he supports "unambiguous limits" on leverage, the Treasury has yet to take action on the issue.

In a speech on the Senate floor this week, Kaufman argued that his amendment is necessary because, in the past decade, banks have become not just too big to fail, but too big to regulate and too big to manage. Internal risk committees couldn't track all the trades and deals inside their banks, allowing traders to take dangerous positions. In some cases, risky bets helped sink their companies. Former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, best remembered for his fondness for deregulation and cozy Wall Street ties, summed up the problem: "There isn't a way for an institution with hundreds of thousands of transactions a day involving something over a trillion dollars that you are going to know what's in those position books."

Size, of course, wasn't the only problem on Wall Street. That's why Kaufman-Brown also addressed the issue of leverage. Before the crisis, Bear Stearns was the smallest of the five investment banks. Yet it borrowed nearly \$40 for every \$1 of assets to turbo-charge its bets on the market—a dangerous position that contributed to the firm's rapid demise in March 2008. Lehman Brothers, which also went under, was so over-extended that it relied on a dubious accounting gimmick, called Repo 105, to artificially lower its leverage to keep investors and rating agencies happy. "All of the former investment banks used those techniques," Janet Tavakoli, head of the consulting firm Tavakoli Structured Finance, told Bloomberg News. "All of them borrowed too much money and were over-leveraged."

Numerous lawmakers and outside experts say leverage limits and busting up the biggest banks are crucial reforms. Arnold Kling, a Cato Institute scholar and former senior economist at Freddie Mac told reporters that if Congress failed to rein in mega-banks like Citigroup and JPMorgan Chase, it would be akin to letting the country "go back to the system we had five years ago and tell regulators to try to regulate a little smarter." It would, in other words, set up the financial system for a repeat of 2008's meltdown.

Passing up the opportunity to downsize super-banks doesn't bode well for efforts to ward off future financial crises, says Simon Johnson, former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund and a widely respected financial expert. The size and wealth of Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, and Bank of America affords those institutions the power to shape legislation and influence, if not capture, regulators, says Johnson. "I really don't see a way forward that would effectively limit the power of these banks unless we limit their size."

Mother Jones [home page](#)

Meet the Economist Who Says the Government's Economic Numbers Are Lies

Establishment economists think John Williams' numbers are off. But then, most of them also thought the economy was healthy.

By Chris Thompson [article link](#) [article link](#)

May 8, 2010 East Bay Express

East Bay Express [home page](#)

AlterNet [home page](#)

Say You Want a Revolution?

by Bill Bonner [article link](#) [article link](#)

05.08.10

The Daily Reckoning [home page](#)

The Silver Bear Cafe [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:18 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Friday, May 7, 2010

Giordano Bruno: Sheeple

Sheeple: Signs That You Might Be Part Of The Herd...

by Giordano Bruno [article link](#) [article link](#)

05.05.10

Millions of people from countries across the world have begun to wake up to the very real threat of repressive and engineered Globalism, or what the financial elite and the politicians who work for them often refer to as "The New World Order". The movement against this centralization of economic and social power has gained traction in nearly every sphere, to the point where even the mainstream media has been forced on occasion to acknowledge its existence and prevalence. Those of us who have been working more than a few years in this activist organization, what many of us call the "Patriot Movement", or the "Liberty Movement", have seen incredible leaps and bounds in the fight against disinformation and the spread of unadulterated truth. Our work has gone viral, and our membership has skyrocketed, however, the task of diluting ignorance in the overall populace is far from over.

Every researcher, writer, and filmmaker who tackles the New World Order issue will suffer the unfortunate experience of running into people who are almost criminally uninformed, and this will happen on a regular basis. For a long time, our frustration was magnified by our inability to specifically define what it was that made these people the way they were. Were some just mentally inadequate, and unable to effectively process the facts? Were they so indoctrinated by the MSM that there was no turning back? Was there an innate difference in intuitive faculties that made some people quick in picking out a lie, and others slow? Many theories abound, but one thing was certain; in our quest to inform the masses, there were always going to be those who were incapable of hearing or understanding what we had to say, no matter how factual, rational, and refined our arguments. We now call these wonders of intellectual rustication "Sheeple"...

Sheeple can be found in every country, every ethnic background, every religious organization, and every subculture. After years of examination and experience, it has become much easier for the Liberty Movement to identify and categorize the various forms of sheeple, and come to terms with the triggers in the human mind that cause some to willfully ignore logic and wisdom. I have written in the past about some of these triggers, including my article "[Sheeple: Why They Are The Way They Are](#)".

I believe it is important to cover this issue once again, especially in light of recent attempts by the MSM, along with the ADL and SPLC, to demonize our movement and paint us as villainous cartoon characters in the minds of the general public, which will make things even more difficult for us in the near future if we are not prepared. For those in the movement, knowing when you are dealing with sheeple, why they function cognitively the way they do, and how you might be able to get around their mental blocks, is of utmost importance today. Every new person who is awakened to the abyss they are about to plunge into could tip the balance away from tyranny and establish a cultural foothold for free-thought. Every person counts. With the world on the edge of financial and political ruin due to the manipulations and mechanizations of elitism, we must work harder than ever before.

Identifying Sheeple

Not everyone who is unaware or uneducated on the intricacies of Globalism, Central Banking, and the NWO, is necessarily "sheeple". All of us, at one time or another, were nearly clueless as to the real workings of our government and our economy behind the proverbial curtain. I have found that many people are quite open to the information I make available as long as I make it available in a way that is not immediately overwhelming for them, and as long as I present solid evidence to back every claim that I relate. It is very important to be able to make the distinction between those who are brazenly dim-witted, and those who simply have not been adequately exposed to the facts.

Below, I will list my observations on the various 'types' of sheeple, and how to recognize them. Keep in mind some people might fall into more than one category.

The 'Happy-Go-Lucky' Sheeple:

Also known as the "Yuppie". Life is a party for these folks. As long as they are not affected by the immediate circumstances of the troubles surrounding them, they couldn't care less about politics, economics, war, or governmental deceit. They may even be aware of the terrible facts behind a certain issue, but as long as the routine of their mundane existence remains intact, they will have little motivation to effect changes in their thinking or their world. In fact, some 'Happy-Go-Lucky' Sheeple ENJOY a random catastrophe or two, because it gives them conversational fodder for the small-talk around the water cooler that they love so much. Their primary drives are unchecked consumerism (the accumulation of useless things), and emotionally empty sexual exchanges (the accumulation of false self-confidence). Most of what they know about the world they derive from watching fifteen minutes of mainstream television news a day. They often parrot talking points they overheard on MSNBC or CNN, and rarely have an original thought.

I have found that these men and women are normally from upper middle-class, white collar families. They have likely been coddled and sheltered from the suffering that goes on outside of the affluent bubble they were born into, and have probably never had to truly struggle for anything in their lives, giving them an audacious sense of entitlement. Plenty of these people break out of this one track thinking pattern on their own. I have known quite a few. But others will refuse to see the obvious unless confronted with the prospect that they personally might lose something if they do not take action.

The 'Quasi-Intellectual' Sheeple:

My favorite kind of sheeple. These people hold themselves in very high esteem. Some even see themselves as part of the elite (though most of them are not). Normally from the "professional class", they often hold positions as Doctors, Lawyers, Bankers, Investors, Professors, Scientists, etc, though some have not yet left the university setting, and are simply getting a head start on their superiority complex.

Quasi-Intellectual Sheeple believe in the world of academia as unerring, as opposed to true scholars, who always have the wisdom to question the conclusions of academia. To me, an Ivy League degree is little more than a \$100,000 piece of paper; it tells me nothing of the true intelligence of the person holding it. One need only look at the thousands of mainstream "professional" financial analysts who blindly supported Keynesian economics and refused to acknowledge the bubbles being facilitated by the private Federal Reserve's artificially low interest rates and free money mentality. Their expensive education counted for nothing, and the economy is now on a ruinous downward slide.

At bottom, most "higher education" is really indoctrination. People attaining degrees in economics learn what the financial establishment WANTS them to learn, and nothing more. The same goes for any other field of study in which information is extremely centralized and filtered. Yet, Quasi-Intellectual Sheeple have such misplaced faith in the ivory tower that they assume through the system they have reached the pinnacle of knowledge. Those who have not assimilated themselves into this system as the Quasi-Intellectual has are to be ignored or ridiculed when presenting an opposing view.

This type of sheeple is driven by the desire for respect, power, and sometimes sycophantic admiration. Actually being intelligent is less important to them than having others believe they are intelligent without question. When asked to prove their intelligence, they often respond with indignance. They rarely if ever consider the possibility that they may be wrong on any subject, especially if it's a subject they received a degree in. When they find themselves facing someone who has a better grasp of an issue than they do, they will not relent. Instead, they will turn towards subversive debate tactics to confuse the discussion, go off on tangents to avoid direct confrontation, and when he is really cornered, he will throw out barrages of obscure vocabulary in an attempt to impress others and distract them from the fact that he has no idea what he is talking about.

Quasi-Intellectual Sheeple are easy to identify by their arrogant demeanor. They tend to distance themselves from FOX and CNN and read periodicals like Forbes and Foreign Affairs, which are still propaganda, just of a more complex nature. They respond to most arguments with a smile, due to overconfidence, until they realize they are being soundly outmatched, and then they tend to lose composure. It takes a lot of public embarrassment before they will mend their ways.

The 'Working-Class Idiot' Sheeple:

Otherwise known as "the good ole' boy". (Special Note: I came from a parallel background, and am highly familiar with these sheeple.) You would think that people who fancy themselves as hardcore conservatives would be aware of the push towards global government and the fact that groups like Al-Qaeda are a fairytale distraction away from the real threat: Socio-Corporate Elitism and overgrown Federal bureaucracy. Apparently, they would 'love' to hear about it, but the football game is on and their wife is in their ear and the rugrats won't stop eating all the damn frosted flakes. Such is the life of men without valid priorities.

These folks are usually Neo-Conservative lapdogs, an ideology suspiciously identical to Socialism with a corporate twist. Mussolini had a name for this combination, though the term escapes me...

Its not that they LIKE big government, Socialism, and the loss of liberties, it's just that they are too ignorant to realize that that's what they are supporting when they support the current Republican Party. These sheeple are very competitive. Sadly, however, they are often not accomplished in much of anything, which forces them to live vicariously through the exploits of others; like sports teams, political figures, and soldiers sent to third world hell-holes to blow up "bad guys". Winning, regardless of whether or not the fight is legitimate or justified, is at the top of the Working Class Idiot's list.

They like to believe that they have a deep relationship with their conscience, which adds pain when attempting to explain anything to them. These men are vindicated in their own minds by a set of logical fallacies that would boggle the likes of Freud. Being rational is not important to those who are vehemently self righteous. They ARE the "good guys", anyone who disagrees is a "bad guy", and that is that. This mindset makes them very easy to dupe, and very easy to lead.

The Working Class Idiot worships television. More than a couple of days without it and he shivers like a starving drug addict. He watches FOX religiously, and not intelligent commentators like Andrew Napolitano. He's a much bigger fan of frothing psychotics such as Bill O' Reilly, spewing baseless nonsense like a third grader's baking soda volcano spews foam.

When cornered in an argument, this type of sheeple will try every trick he knows to degrade or intimidate his opponent. When that does not work, he has no problem resorting to violence. How to get through to this sheeple? Find a sports figure, prominent Republican, or military man who talks openly about the NWO (there are some out there). Only then will he take the blinders off.

The 'New Age' Sheeple:

Otherwise known as "unabashed collectivists". Not to be confused with people who do legitimate study into mythology, spiritualism, and the teachings of the ancient past. These are the folks who read Oprah throwaway books like "The Secret", and think they have actually learned a secret.

You don't have to walk on egg shells with New Age Sheeple when it comes to the NWO. They are just as likely to approach you about it. The problem is, they think it's the best thing since patchouli sticks! Why? Because their vision of a one world order comes from an overexposure to Gene Rodenberry-esque fantasy and a subversive form of propaganda I like to call "Positivism".

Most 'New Agers' are people who have at one point or another in their lives met with serious struggle, unlike the 'Happy-Go-Lucky' sheeple. However, instead of holding steady through this struggle, they gave up, curling into a ball never to put any real effort into anything substantial again. They often make elaborate excuses for themselves, and adopt Eastern philosophical concepts they don't really understand. Zen becomes an excuse to ignore the rest of the world and focus on something pointless like underwater basket weaving. Karma becomes an excuse and vindication for any unfortunate event. Self awareness gets confused with self-centeredness. While Happy-Go-Lucky sheeple focus superficially on the outside world, New Agers focus superficially on their inner world.

New Age Sheeple do not set out to actively and physically fix problems. They follow the Positivist view, which is to ignore bad things and hope they go away, or make them go away "with their minds". No, I am not joking. Every New Ager I have ever met holds stubbornly to the belief that if they think happy thoughts and wish hard enough, their invisible "mental energy" will change their surroundings for them. "If only everyone was blindly optimistic about everything," they think to themselves, "our society would be perfect..." I hate to break it to them, but no amount of 'happy vibes' will stop an inflationary dollar implosion, or stop people who have deliberately chosen to ignore their consciences from doing terrible things.

I have spent over two decades in the martial arts, so I am well aware of the mental and spiritual energy idea. However, in the martial arts, you are taught (rightly I think) that priming ones inner focus only prepares you for struggle, it does not make struggle disappear. What the New Age really boils down to is an attempt to cut corners and slap together easy answers for the very complex and intricate problems of life. It is a lazy man's methodology of denial in which there is no concrete reality, only "point of view". This breeds hive-mindedness, because the search for individualism is in itself an exhausting marathon, one they would rather not undertake. Overt collectivism is much easier. All you have to do is follow the swarm. And because New Agers force themselves to become so mutable, over the years they will mindlessly adapt to any horrifying circumstance. If reality is only a "point of view", then why not rationalize wars and holocausts as illusory blips in time?

The only way to get through to New Age Sheeple that I have found is to show them succinctly that the New World Order the Global Elites are constructing is not the same as the one they like to imagine. Making them read through UN white papers on global governance and federal documents like PDD 51 and the Civilian Inmate Labor Program can help. They will still probably think a one world government is a good idea, but at least they won't support the Elite's version.

The 'Quasi-Activist' Sheeple:

Also known as "the rebel with too many causes and not enough knowledge". At least these sheeple are willing to leave their houses and fight for something, even if they know little to nothing about what they are fighting for or over. The problem is that their lack of insight and in-depth understanding on most issues makes them highly susceptible to manipulation. These are the "useful idiots" we hear so much about; the people who support Anarchist groups that promote Socialist ideals (uh,

Socialism is contrary to the tenets of real Anarchism, guys...), the people who believe everything they are told by the CRU on global warming even though the CRU has never released original source data proving that anything they say is true, the people who blame Capitalism and free markets for the economic collapse even though we haven't had legitimate Capitalism and free markets in over a century. Without knowing the facts behind these issues, how can one effectively involve himself in them?

Quasi-Activist Sheeple protest not so much to change the world, but to FEEL like they are changing the world. Being a part of something greater, even if it's a sham, is a major motivator. These people are under the impression that they have an inside track on the workings of politics and culture, but the information sources they use are ultimately narrow and biased. NPR for example is not a reliable news source, and just because they speak in a monotone voice with a British accent does not mean they are educated on social undercurrents or that they are objective. Most "progressive" journalism is merely the leftist equivalent of FOX; highly saturated with disinformation and emotional button pushing. This helps to create a subculture that sees itself as "alternative", when it is actually the flipside of the same old false paradigm coin.

The advantage of dealing with Quasi-Activists is that they do realize something is very wrong with the world. This is more than most other sheeple accomplish in an entire lifetime. The key is showing them the inaccuracy of the information sources they are too dependent on, and breaking them out of the fake left/right mental trap. As long as they continue to blame all the problems of the planet on "the right", as long as they continue to blame generalized and fictitious opponents that were designed for them by the media, they will never understand why America continues on its self-destructive path despite all their civil discourse.

Common Sheeple Arguments

Below are listed some of the most often uttered sheeple arguments, as well as the rational responses to them.

1) The NWO is just a "conspiracy theory":

Set aside the fact that politicians and leaders of finance talk about the New World Order constantly in speeches, books, and on nighttime television. The temptation here is to push the sheeple label and start a battle of insults. When someone accuses you of "conspiracy theory" what they are really saying is that you are a liar, crazy, or both. Of course, calling someone a liar or crazy does not negate their arguments. Hollow character attacks like this are meant to interfere or defuse legitimate and logical discussion. Force the sheeple to address the information you present instead of allowing them to make your personal character the subject of the debate. This rule goes for you too. Don't just call them sheeple without backing up your claims and pointing out the inconsistencies in their beliefs.

2) I'm well informed and have never been a "sheep":

Most human beings, regardless of the time they live in, think they have it all figured out. Even men in the dark ages thought they had reached the summit of understanding. They are able to perpetuate this illusion because they are rarely challenged to prove the accuracy of their information or the wisdom in their perspective. Challenge their knowledge on specific issues, and show them there is always more to learn.

3) I'm not the "sheeple"! You are because you believe in conspiracy theories:

Yes, full grown adults still use the rubber/glue tactic. Remember, one of the main threads linking all sheeple is that they believe what they believe so that they can belong, so that they can be a part of a majority. Delving into NWO research is the last thing anyone does to "fit in". Just mentioning it can alienate friends, family, potential hot dates, etc. No one follows this information because they expect to feel accepted by the masses. They follow it because they know it is the truth.

4) The NWO is not possible because it would involve too many people. Someone would let the cat out of the bag eventually:

Actually, the Global Elites themselves let "the cat out of the bag" constantly. They speak openly about plans for world government, world financial control, population control and reduction, and they write bills and legislation that are designed to limit or erase our civil liberties. The proof is hidden in plain sight.

5) You're connecting dots that are not there:

Neither I nor any other researcher needs to "connect dots" when we have the public admissions and documents of the Elites themselves.

6) You're just fear mongering to get attention:

The term "fear mongering" denotes the use of lies to induce hysteria. If the information we present is true and supported by tangible facts, then how other people are affected by it is not our problem, it is theirs. Frankly, learning the truth should make a person feel empowered, not hysterical.

7) Everything is just chaos. There is no such thing as an organized conspiracy to control the world:

The events they see as chaos make perfect sense to us because we have an insight into information they do not. It's that simple. The numerous movements in a complex time-piece might seem like chaos to someone that doesn't know what a time-piece is, or the purpose of a gear, or second hand. Try to explain the concept of color to a blind person. Without a full accounting of the facts, it is very hard for one to know a thing. Also, a quick glance through any encyclopedia, even those with heavy editing, will reveal numerous "conspiracies" throughout history by small groups of men to rule the known world at the expense of the rest of us. Why was it perfectly plausible a hundred years ago, or fifty years ago, but not today?

8) Yeah, I know the NWO exists, but who cares! We can't stop it, so just live your life and have fun while you can:

Nihilism is the worst kind of mental illness because it allows a person to constantly fulfill his own prophecies by doing nothing. When it comes to cultural progression, there is no such thing as the insurmountable scenario. Anything can be accomplished with the right amount of intelligence and effort. Nihilists make no effort to fix the problems they are confronted with, then claim they were right to be nihilistic because nothing changed. We have a responsibility not just to ourselves, but to the future. We have a responsibility to deal with the problems of the present, instead of pawning them off on the next generation.

9) Its all our fault that Globalists get away with murder. Most of us are just stupid:

This is only partly true. The average person does share part of the blame for not educating himself on circumstances, and for not taking action, however, ultimately it is the Elites who initiate the crimes we are then forced to either face or ignore. They are the ones that literally spend billions of dollars on propaganda designed to keep us in a fog. In the end, it is they who carry the principal culpability, not "the people".

10) What's so bad about a one-world government? It would be the end of war, right?:

Global government designed around a collectivist structure and ruled by men who believe themselves to be "genetically and philosophically superior" to the rest of us would not fix anything, it would only make our current problems much worse. War would be perpetual, because there will always be people who fight to be free from despotism, and even planetary governments need to create fear to manipulate the citizenry towards certain goals. Our economy would be equalized; meaning it would be equally oppressive and feudalistic for everyone. And, the liberties we hold dear today would be a distant memory tomorrow. Anyone who truly thinks that more government makes them "safer" is not just extraordinarily naive; they are sheeple...

Breaking The Sheeple Barrier

Sheeple can change. I have seen it with my own eyes on numerous occasions. If the sheeple you are dealing with at any given moment is a stranger, or mere acquaintance, you may not feel that it is worth the immense effort necessary to enlighten them to the problems at hand. But, if said sheeple is a family member or loved one, you might have no other choice but to push forward. There is nothing worse than seeing the people you care about suffer because you were unsuccessful in warning them of impending danger.

The above sections can help in easing through the process of waking up a member of the herd, though the best efforts will be wasted without patience and persistence. In every person there are barriers and doorways to truth. The trick is finding the unique keys which open those doors and break down those barriers. There are some who will claim that it is futile to make the attempt. That we should leave well enough alone. That many are too far gone to be helped. I beg to differ. If that was true, then the Liberty Movement would not be making the tremendous strides it is today. We did not get to where we are now by giving up when the waters became choppy, and I believe when this age is chronicled and spoken of, it will be our perseverance above all else that defines us. It is a grueling task to defeat an opponent who cannot be dissuaded, who cannot be made to give up. It is nearly impossible to defeat that same opponent when he is also right. To those in the New World Order, we are such an opponent. As long as we do not falter, the sheeple will grow thinner in number, replaced by cognizant vibrant individuals, and the warped ambitions of Globalists will not come to pass...

The Silver Bear Cafe [home page](#)
NeitherCorp Press [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:21 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

[Mammon or Messiah research](#)

Friday, May 7, 2010

[John Kozy: Specie, Script, and War](#)

Specie, Script, and War: The Contradictory Practices of the Global Economic System

by Prof. John Kozy [article link](#)

May 6, 2010 Global Research

"Wars are never fought for altruistic reasons. They're usually fought for . . . business. And then, of course, there's the business of war." Arundhati Roy

Ms Roy's view is widely held, and it's certainly true—as far as it goes. But the view has a logic to it that, to my knowledge, no one has ever elucidated.

People assume that the economy is a system. But it isn't. How the world-wide economy works has developed mostly by happenstance over millennia. It embodies contradictory practices and produces horrific consequences.

Primitive peoples extracted from nature what they needed or fashioned it into things they could use. When they produced more than they needed, they bartered the excess for what they could not produce themselves. It's called trading. Commodities are traded for commodities, and over time some commodities became media of exchange, the most prevalent of which are precious metals that are converted into specie (coin). But this system works only when the commodities traded have equal value. When they don't, trade becomes a form of theft, which leads to unfairness and conflict.

Trade implies that all nations can be neither net exporters nor net importers. Net exporters amass huge amounts of specie while net importers relinquish theirs. Net exporters become rich while net importers are bankrupted. To keep this system working, colonial wars were fought, peoples were subjugated, and their lands were plundered. Theft became a global practice.

The colonial wars fought after the discovery of the Americas by Europeans were fought for this reason. England, France, Spain, Portugal, and Holland, not themselves rich in mineral resources, all not only fought wars of conquest but fought each other to gain control of what precious metals could be extracted from the so called New World. Trade required access to these metals. No inhumane act was beyond use. Genocide, enslavement, piracy, cruelties of all kinds were commonly practiced. These practices continue today. These wars were necessitated by the need for specie which the trading economy requires.

But specie is a limited resource. Not only is it not distributed throughout the world uniformly, it is finite. It is also inconvenient for many transactions, so scrip (paper money), originally valued in units of specie, became common. But the holders of specie, bankers, quickly realized that they could issue more scrip than could be redeemed by the specie they held, since all depositors would not want their specie back at the same time. The practice is called fractional reserve banking and is a Ponzi scheme, a banking fraud. The specie of new depositors is used to redeem the scrip issued to past depositors. Ultimately, when more scrip was issued than could be redeemed by the available specie, the link between scrip and specie—the standard—was abandoned. Since then scrip functions as a medium of exchange only because people believe it can be traded for commodities. The entire world-wide economy functions merely on faith. But the world is too complex, too dangerous, to rely on an economy based on faith.

Over time, some nations became highly developed, net exporting manufacturing powers. Others stagnated as net importers. Then something unanticipated happened. Because it was viewed as cheaper to manufacture products abroad and import them than manufacture them domestically, manufacturing in developed countries declined as did the incomes of their peoples. The developed nations began, for various reasons, to import more and more and export less and less. Without commodities to trade, they trade scrip. But as the so-called developed nations manufacture less and less, less and less is available for the holders of scrip to buy. The scrip eventually becomes worthless, and the entire system collapses.

As natural resources become scarce domestically, the economic infrastructure created in earlier times still requires them. As domestic oil production shrinks, for instance, the need for imported oil increases. But no products are being manufactured domestically to barter for the oil. Without commodities or a credible scrip, trade cannot be relied upon to provide the required commodities.

How can such nations acquire the resources needed? There is but one answer—conquest for plunder! Human life becomes the medium of exchange. The world has been turned topsy-turvy. Rather than an economy that functions to fulfill the needs of people as it originally did, people are sacrificed to fulfill the needs of the economy, and the economy exists for no purpose whatsoever. It just is. The current attempt by the European Union and the IMF to resolve the sovereign debt crisis by sacrificing the well being of people to preserve the European economy demonstrates this topsy-turviness. The European Union, which is nothing but a trading association, has made the economy more important than the welfare of its people.

Yet conquest is only a temporary solution. The conquests carried out by Western nations in the sixteenth century for precious metals have now been undone. These nations are, like the United States, virtually bankrupt. And conquest itself is expensive; its costs are high in both money and lives. As more and more sophisticated weaponry is developed, the costs grow higher and higher. How long can bankrupt nations afford them?

Western economists have propelled this system and are now claiming that countries like China, for instance, need America as much as and perhaps more than America needs them. But is that true? Are these economists trapped in a closed box? They are right only if China travels the same trail to development that has been blazed by the Western world. But what if the peoples of the developing world don't do that? What if they realize that the trail leads only to trouble? What if they switch their manufacturing from products for export to products for domestic consumption? What if they realize that dependence on foreign commodities is a road to ruin? What if the Chinese and other developing nations realize that becoming self-sufficient is a much safer policy? Economists call that autarchy and have been denigrating it for decades. Look what their denigrations have wrought!

If the human race is to survive, it will have to abandon this economy of plunder. The weapons of war have become too horrendous, the costs too great, the damage too sweeping, and the evil too extensive. The Earth is being turned into a wasteland, a huge landfill, a gigantic burial ground.

Some believe technology will save the day. But since the dawn of science in the sixteenth century, it hasn't shown much promise. The proliferation of products of convenience it has yielded has not ameliorated a single major problem. Suppose, for instance, that alternative forms of energy are produced. Can wind power replace oil? Perhaps, but the economic conundrum will not be solved if the turbines have to be imported from China.

Many today advocate a return to a specie standard—the gold standard. But there is nothing special about gold as specie. Gold is just another commodity, although gold has some physical properties that make its use as specie preferable. China recently agreed to lend Venezuela \$20 billion which Venezuela will repay with oil, a bartering arrangement which shows that any valued commodity can be used to ensure the value of scrip. Furthermore, since the amount of specie is limited, fractional reserve banking would still be required if the amount of scrip needed to finance the volume of trade is to be made available. Nothing would really change. Net exporting nations would quickly impoverish net importing nations by simply redeeming scrip for gold.

But Arundhati Roy is right. Wars are fought for business, but business and the economy are synonymous. Wars will continue to be fought for the economy as long as this economy is not abandoned. War is a logical consequence of it, not, as most seem to believe, a means utilized by it. No attempt to eliminate war and preserve the economy can succeed. A globalized economy leads only to a global disaster, as everyone should have now seen. Net exporters become rich while net importers are impoverished. Self sufficiency (autarchy), not trade, is the only possible way to extricate the human race from the consequences of the specie/scrip/plunder economy. A nation that doesn't need the resources found in other lands has no reason to go to war. Globalized trade, rather than being a path to peace and prosperity, inevitably leads to war, poverty, and destruction. The economists have it all wrong.

John Kozy is a retired professor of philosophy and logic who blogs on social, political, and economic issues. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he spent 20 years as a university professor and another 20 years working as a writer. He has published a textbook in formal logic commercially, in academic journals and a small number of commercial magazines, and has written a number of guest editorials for newspapers. His on-line pieces can be found on <http://www.jkozy.com/> and he can be emailed from that site's homepage.

John Kozy is a frequent contributor to Global Research.
Global Research [Articles](#) by John Kozy

The Global Economic Crisis, The Great Depression of the XXI Century

Preface by Michel Chossudovsky and Andrew Gavin Marshall [article link](#)

For more details on the book click [here](#). The book can be ordered directly from Global Research
Global Research [home page](#)

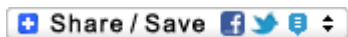
Congress Goes to Bat For Wall Street, Rejects Plan To Break up Banks

Last night, Congress shot down the most important Wall Street reform.

by Zach Carter [article link](#) [article link](#)

May 7, 2010 AlterNet | truthout

AlterNet [home page](#)
truthout [home page](#)
Campaign For America's Future [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:13 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Thursday, May 6, 2010

[Francis Shor: Complicit Agents of Imperial Crimes](#)

Complicit Agents of Imperial Crimes

by: Francis Shor [article link](#)

Wednesday 05 May 2010 t r u t h o u t | Op-Ed

What would you do if you knew that a large contingent of well-armed gang members were planning to assault Los Angeles, inflicting massive death and mayhem on innocent civilians? Furthermore, what if those gang members could be linked to you through financial support you had given to their paymasters?

Sounds preposterous? Only consider that there are gang members, called Special Forces, trained by the Pentagon, paid for by US citizens and sent into battle by an imperial president and Washington policymakers, who are now planning to attack Kandahar, the second largest city in Afghanistan. Some of those Special Forces may have been part of the February 2010 night raid that murdered two pregnant women and one young girl and then tried to cover up their crime. Perhaps, those pilots preparing to bomb Kandahar may be the same ones who carried out earlier and repeated attacks on wedding parties throughout Afghanistan, resulting in the death of hundreds of civilian celebrants.

Maybe those horrific deaths, not captured on video and underreported in the American corporate media, seem too remote and abstract. On the other hand, now that millions of US citizens have seen the actual footage, thanks to WikiLeaks, of the July 12, 2007, Apache helicopter attack in Baghdad that killed 12 civilians, including two employees of Reuters news agency, how will the outrage be mobilized? Beyond the calls for an independent investigation of this incident, what will be our individual and collective response?

Will the citizens of St. Louis march en masse on Boeing Defense, Space and Security where the Apache helicopter is produced? Will a Catholic bishop from St. Louis take a lesson from Bishop Matthiesen of Amarillo, Texas, and threaten excommunication to Boeing workers, as did Matthiesen in the early 1980s to those who worked in a nearby nuclear bomb facility. Will Boeing workers demand an end to war production and conversion to green sustainable products?

Will the corporate executives of Alliant Techsystems in Minneapolis stop manufacturing the M230 30 millimeter chain gun that spewed its projectiles into that crowd of unarmed men from the Apache helicopter that sweltering July day in 2007? Certainly, the previous owners of Alliant, Honeywell, faced constant and militant demonstrations at their corporate offices during the late 1960s and early 1970s as a consequence of their manufacturing of the anti-personnel fragmentation bombs used by the Pentagon in its indiscriminate strikes throughout Southeast Asia.

Corporate executives, church leaders, line workers and tax-paying citizens are all part of the complicit chain that drives the imperial war machine. Maybe there are true believers among them who are blinded by self-interest and false patriotism. However, among the skeptics and opponents there seems to be a kind of psychic numbing, a disconnectedness that afflicts the capacity to take action. Ironically, the very people who assume that their connections in the virtual world translate automatically into real political opposition may be fooling themselves about their efficacy as anti-war opponents.

Let's face it: we are all now part of a militarized matrix. Desensitized by aggressive and racist video games, and facing a precarious future, young men and women join the military in the belief that their service will be rewarded, only to be confronted with what social psychologist Tracy Xavier Karner calls a "militarization of feeling." Acting out of that feeling

and with a hair-trigger mentality, many of these soldiers can rationalize killing even women and children. Although a few refuse to be instruments of imperial murder and others return to civilian life ready to denounce what they were forced to do, too many become victims themselves, either physically or psychologically.

Meanwhile, US citizens are bombarded with both heavy-handed and subtle messages that reinforce the false belief these soldiers are "our" troops and not the imperial instruments designed by the Pentagon. Whether at sporting events or ads in movie theaters and on television, the solemn link between the military and the citizenry is hammered home. Perhaps, one reason that the Pentagon tries to do everything in its power to deny and then suppress pictures and stories, like those exposed on WikiLeaks, is because they make that link more tenuous.

On the other hand, as long as the citizenry does nothing to translate its outrage into real-world action, the daily outrages perpetrated in our name in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and other sites of US military intervention will continue. As April 15 approaches, we should all remember that almost half of our federal tax dollars for discretionary funding goes to military-related expenditures. With Congress soon to vote on a supplemental bill for 33 billion dollars more for the war in Afghanistan, we must mount an organized campaign at every level to raise the political cost to prosecute the war. We must find a way to act both individually and collectively to stop being complicit agents of imperial crimes.

Francis Shor is the author of "Dying Empire: U.S. Imperialism and Global Resistance." Excerpts can be found on the web site www.dyingempire.org.

truthout [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:22 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

[The Systemic is SELF-DEFINING](#)

MM Book 2 Chapter 10-20

Psalm 23:5 "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over" = God will fill you with love if you let him, to overflowing !! – drink the cup of water given in Christ's name, because we are the *anointed* who *belong* to Christ [Matt 9:41] — he who worships the Beast and his Image, and receives his mark in his forehead [BEING], or in his hand [DOING; the COG Inc., who ** BELONG NOT ** to Christ], the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out WITHOUT MIXTURE [Babylon = confusion by mixing] into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the Holy Angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: [Rev 14:8-9] – **God will NOT contribute to the misery in the world; this cup is against COG error/iniquity and is MERCY and TRUTH, the pure [fire] and purifying [brimstone] Word of God !!** – GOD DOES NOT BEAT HIS CHILDREN INTO SUBMISSION, HE LOVES THEM TO LIFE; GOD'S WAYS ARE *NOT* MAN'S WAYS !! – this is the REVELATION, the APOCALYPSE, when the COG's error is "revealed" and corrected; their torment is the SHAME felt as they are purified to become God Family !! – Christ and the Holy Angels are there for teaching and support NOT to witness pain, anguish, torture [the everyday witness soon to be changed, beginning with the COG]: KNOW CHRIST, HIS *LOVE* [His nature of interaction; God's character] !!

MM Book 2 Chapter 10-21

The Systemic is SELF-DEFINING, ie., the S&L debacle, the Dot.Com's, Enron and Worldcom-MCI [criminal fraud], and the present "world financial crisis" [Sep.2008-present; the theft of the past, present and future]; "generally accepted accounting practises" = the *lack* of accountability, responsibility, trust — corporate politico-business, and self-defined Christian-ity [most professing Christ-ians, including the COG Inc.], DO *NOT* FIT INTO GOD'S DEFINITION(S) !! –

individually our “being and doing” define us; **WE MUST PUT ON ** THE CHRIST DEFINITION **, THE AGAPE RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL THINGS, this is what must be RESTORED !!** – WORK [G2716 perform, accomplish, achieve; root G2041 ergon, instrumentality] OUT **** YOUR OWN SALVATION **** IN RESPECT AND AWE [Phil 2:12], IN FELLOWSHIP, IN CONCERT WITH OTHERS, YOUR CITIZENSHIP [G4176 politeuomai - live - let (one's) conversation be 1) to be a citizen 2) to administer civil affairs, manage the state 3) to make or create a citizen 3a) to be a citizen 3b) to behave as a citizen; to avail one's self of or recognise the laws; to conduct one's self as pledged to some law of life] WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST [Phil 1:27] – people seek comfort [self-worth; assurance; validation]; WE MUST PROVIDE THE COMFORT, THE AGAPE RELATIONSHIP, GOD WILL PROVIDE THE COMFORTER TO MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE: THE COMFORTER PROVIDES THE COMFORT, WE HAVE THE RESPONSE-ABILITY, the MINISTRATION of “God’s” spiritual gifts !! vs. the **** lack of comfort **** that drives the self-medication [sex, food, drugs, media, appearance, status, etc.] within the comfortless systemic, and this includes tribalization: selfish family, selfish Christ-ian-ity, politics, etc. – WE HAVE BEEN FITTED FOR ROBES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, MEASURED ***BY*** CHRIST [upon repentance and Baptism], THEY MUST ***REMAIN*** WHITE, PURE, ***NOT*** FILTHY RAGS NEEDING TO BE WASHED IN THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, IN SHAME !!

MM Book 2 Chapter 10-22

Systemic failure [true face shown]/greed, dishonesty = T\$’s lost in share value, etc. [manipulated stock market profit = gain at another's loss] – “insider” trading [inside knowledge used prior to public release] vs. “disclosure rules/law” – auditors-regulators-brokers complicit [monetary mechanisms, use of trading indicator(s), fraudulent schemes] – government “politico-business” loath to risk offending the corporations [the SAGE] will result in cosmetic laws, selective prosecution(s) – public monies, pension funds, etc., at risk; “investor victimization” is the result of a “lack of knowledge”; INVESTORS MUST DEFEND THEMSELVES BY KNOWLEDGE AND APPLICATION OF THE SAME – use of “corporate monies”, investing in corporatism, maintaining MAMMON, will change nothing, it is the NATURE OF THE BEAST – **WE MUST *CHOOSE* A NEW SYSTEMIC, THE ** CHRIST-SYSTEMIC **, A NEW NATURE OF INTER-ACTION !!** — governmental “leaders” are complicit in the very same practises [public and private], as is “their” governments: THE PUBLIC MUST OVERCOME THE INSTILLED FEAR AND TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR LIVES [the “earning” of public confidence by those in power, as a controlling, regulating mechanism, is a myth; the violation of a manipulated and created “public trust”, that is of itself a violation of the very same public] !! – THE SYSTEMIC OFFERS US NO CHOICE BUT ITSELF, UNDER THREAT, BUT GOD DOES, UNDER ***PROMISE*** !! – IT IS UP TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US, acting individually and then collectively ***as*** community !!

MM Book 2 Chapter 10-23

There is a “realization” growing, but will it take root in “good ground”, will it result in “conscientious objection”, THE CALL OF GOD, TO HIM, HIS SYSTEMIC ?? – will the symptoms disclose the disease, or will it go unrecognized, or worse, ignored, again ?? – society must choose a “new body”, the body of Christ, and the COG must pluck out, cut off, and cast away its infected parts, the “Inc.” [Matt 5:29-30, 18:7-9, Mark 9:43-47] !! – our “locked and gated” selfish-communities must be unlocked, opened, and shared freely, without claim [without money, without price (Isa 52:3, 55:1)], **** TO FREELY SHARE *ALL* THAT GOD HAS FREELY SHARED WITH US **** — **we must be emancipated from the “master” of NEED, the systemic slavery [the commodification of life] and the hierarchical, authoritarian model engendered** – the secular understanding of this is loosely termed libertarian-anarchism, or communitarianism, but when you add God’s consciousness as governing principle, it becomes the Christ-Systemic, not just another “-ism”, a form of business – Human self-realization is only possible through God, His freedom and liberty given as gift; the beginning of self-realization leads to conscientious objection which in turn leads either to the Call of God [seeing beyond self] or to the opposite, selfish individualism [just another form of authoritarianism, an imposed will of others, a rejection of the God relationship].

MM Book 2 Chapter 10-24

You cannot “vote out” those who you did not “vote in”, those behind the elected body(-ies), those who actually “govern” and “manage” society, those beneath the visible, moulded surface [the face behind the mask]: the SAGE, those whose interest(s) ***are*** the “national interest(s)”, those of concentrated global power and position, the oligarchy who socialize

costs and risks onto the public-Nation, the corporate global elite, whose “might is right” – this corporate-consciousness [and its "high priests"] is NOT a “conspiracy theory”, it is an instilled and imposed way of “being and doing” [a variant, yet 6000 years old; the "US" of America was founded within it, and by it; "America" (its ideals) were placed upon it and it became the foundation, the inseparable mythic: God and Nation)] but it is diametrically opposed to God’s Way, and Christ called it “evil” in totality, as an instrumentality [means; instrument of mentality] – our educational institutions and media [especially advertising/pr] are its main proponents: the manufactured consent [Noam Chomsky], the selfish desires engendered, and the commodification of life itself [of Christ] plugs us in and holds us in servitude to it – CHRIST CALLS US *OUT* OF THIS “CREATED”, EVIL WORLD, ITS SYSTEMIC [the "UNEQUAL YOKE"], INTO HIS WORLD, HIS WAY [utilizing the CHRIST-SYSTEMIC] – WE MUST BE A NEW CREATION, WE MUST BE *AS* GOD IN THE WORLD [man's world; a wheel within a wheel (course; way of life)] !!

MM Book 2 Chapter 10-25

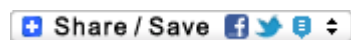
The tribunal, the court of public opinion must be enlightened [Christ is Light, Truth; JUDGEMENT = GOD, JUDGEMENT *IS* GOD (as touchstone)] – **GOD’S “JUDGEMENT” IS FOR US TO BE HIS FAMILY: we are sentenced to Liberty and LIFE, to CHRIST; we are called to repentance and life !!** – this world [its sin; the absence of God's character] sentences us to imprisonment [to its systemic], and death [as "penalty", as result of ourselves]: “evil shall slay the wicked” [Psm 34:21], “there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle [H5216 lamp (means; the burner) and/or the light] of the wicked shall be put out [H1846 TO GO OUT, BE EXTINGUISHED, DRY UP, ** TO BE MADE EXTINGUISHED **, BE DRIED UP; TO BE EXTINGUISHED, BE QUENCHED”] [Pr 24:20]: ** MANKIND IS IN EXTINCTION MODE **, WE WILL BURN OUT, CONSUME OURSELVES UNLESS CHRIST QUENCHES [by Water of Life] THE EVIL: Christ paid the penalty for us, and He will intervene, BUT FIRST, WE MUST, AS THE BODY OF CHRIST, *PREPARE* THE GOSPEL, OUR RESPONSE-ABILITY vs. the growing and deepening darkness [faith (light kindled) must be found by Christ when He returns (Luke 18:8); WE WILL LIGHT THE WORLD, the HONOR is ours *with* Christ] !!

MM Book 2 Chapter 10-26

The COG must return to Christ [withdrawal; undefiled by the Inc.]; He will return, His “flesh” must be saved *ALIVE* – ARE WE ALIVE *IN* CHRIST, OR AGAIN CONSIDERED DEAD IN THE WORLD [the second death] ?? – to be *alive* with Christ means to be “*dead* with Christ from the rudiments [G4747 principles; material causes; G4748 the walk; to direct one's life] of the world [G2889 kosmos; instrumentality]” [Col 2:20] – WE MUST BE SEPARATE, NOT COMPLICIT IN THIS WORLD; ** WE ARE SEPARATED WITH CHRIST, WE ARE ALIVE ** – WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD BY CHRIST’S DEATH AND SHALL BE SAVED BY HIS LIFE, we are no longer “enemies” of God [Rom 5:10]; WE WERE/ARE RECONCILED BY OUR REJECTION OF THIS WORLD’S SYSTEMIC [dead to Mammon] AND BY OUR CHOICE OF THE CHRIST-SYSTEMIC [alive to Messiah] !!

Mammon or Messiah Book 2 Chapter 10 [web page](#)

Mammon or Messiah Book 2 [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [8:41 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Paul Farrell: Goldman Conspiracy

Goldman Conspiracy

by Paul Farrell [article link](#) [article link](#)

4th May 2010 TheBurningPlatform

Paul Farrell does it again. He is a true patriot. I see his career coming to an end shortly when Goldman and the other criminals on Wall Street apply enough pressure on CBS to fire him. The truth is not allowed on the MSM today. He is not towing the corporate line. His article puts into words what I showed in pictures. This quote sums up Wall Street for me:

“With a trader, the goal of every minute of every day is to make money ... So if running the economy off the cliff makes you money, you will do it, and you will do it every day of every week.”

“Wall Street’s culture is without a conscience, reveling in \$100 million profit days. Traders act like cocaine addicts. Their brains have warped Wall Street’s ethics so badly they can’t think of anything but bonuses. They’ve lost their moral compass.”

By Paul B. Farrell, MarketWatch

ARROYO GRANDE, Calif. (MarketWatch) — Remember Nietzsche? “God is dead.” Let’s translate that 19th century Germanic philosophy into modern economics. In Adam Smith’s 1776 capitalism, God was the Invisible Hand, a mysterious force running the economy from the shadows.

Flash forward to 2010: Capitalism is dead. The economy has a new Invisible Hand, the Goldman Conspiracy of Wall Street bankers.

This transfer of power happened suddenly. As recently as late 2008 the Invisible Hand was on life support, [near death](#). Suddenly, miraculously the [Treasury secretary](#), Goldman’s former CEO, transferred the power into a new Invisible Hand of God, the free-market ideology of Reaganomics ... a power absolutely essential to the survival of Wall Street’s mega-bonus culture.

Yes, that’s why the Goldman Conspiracy must kill financial reforms ... why they will kill effective reform with the backroom support of Obama and Dodd. This was predicted back in late 2008, even before the bailouts, back when we thought Reaganomics dead. “Shock Doctrine” author [Naomi Klein](#) warned:

“Free market ideology has always been a servant to the interests of capital ... During boom times it’s profitable to preach laissez faire, because an absentee government allows speculative bubbles ... When those bubbles burst, the ideology becomes a hindrance and goes dormant while big government rides to the rescue,” then a neo-Reaganomics “ideology will come roaring back when the bailouts are done. The massive debts the public is accumulating to bail out the speculators will then become part of a global budget crisis,” setting up a new bubble, bigger meltdown, and the Great Depression 2 the world narrowly avoided in 2008.

America’s now at a historic turning point. If the Goldman Conspiracy succeeds in killing reform, another collapse is guaranteed, soon. Listen to Time magazine’s Stephen Gandel:

“Of all the causes of the financial crisis, one of the biggest was a power shift on Wall Street that left the traders in charge and the bankers who had traditionally run everything from Broad Street to Maiden Lane sidelined. Years ago, the investment world and its professionals believed in long-term relationships. That meant nurturing the economy and the companies and people in it.” Yes, that was the culture when I was with Morgan Stanley back in the ’70s.

But “two decades of cheap money, though, helped turn the Street over to the traders. That led to a very different way of doing business.” Gandel captures Wall Street’s new culture in one powerful quote: “With a trader, the goal of every minute of every day is to make money ... So if running the economy off the cliff makes you money, you will do it, and you will do it every day of every week.”

Wall Street’s culture is without a conscience, reveling in \$100 million profit days. Traders act like cocaine addicts. Their brains have warped Wall Street’s ethics so badly they can’t think of anything but bonuses. They’ve lost their moral compass.

The 6 reasons Obama/Dodd helping Wall Street kill financial reforms

In this context, the Goldman Conspiracy’s goals are very simple as they manipulate Congress and the president to protect their warped culture:

1. No Fed audits, no transparency, no matter how much money the Fed prints for the banks
2. A toothless Consumer Protection Agency
3. Wall Street must continue controlling rating agencies
4. Unregulated proprietary trading of derivatives with loopholes for corporate derivatives
5. No new Glass-Steagall laws to prevent Wall Street from trading with customers’ deposits
6. And taxpayers must remain liable for future bailouts over \$50 billion up to unlimited sums even greater than the recent \$23.7 trillion the Fed and Treasury handed out.

Bottom line: The Goldman Conspiracy must kill any real financial reform. Why? The Goldman Conspiracy cannot generate huge bonuses without their new Invisible Hand; the resurrection of unregulated neo-Reaganomics allowing traders to keep gambling in the lucrative \$670 trillion global derivatives shadow banking casino.

There’s a super-power ideology driving this new Invisible Hand, the neo-Reaganomics that the Conspiracy’s lobby is pushing as a substitute for real reform. The principles of their neo-Reaganomics are simple, three ideologies evolved since Reagan’s election.

Former Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan’s guru [Ayn Rand](#): “When I say capitalism, I mean a pure, uncontrolled, unregulated laissez-faire capitalism, with a separation of economics, in the same way and for the same reasons as a separation of state and church.” This ideology guided the world’s monetary policy 18 years.

Nobel economist Milton Friedman taught President Reagan “government is the problem.” Democracy changed too slowly for him. [Klein](#) tells us Friedman believed that “only a great rupture, a flood, a war, a terrorist attack, can create the vast, clean canvasses they crave ... to begin remaking the nation” using the tools of “privatization, government deregulation and deep cuts in social spending.”

The current resurgence of Reaganomics is all part of the Goldman Conspiracy’s takeover of America. But what’s most alarming in their efforts to kill reforms is the new form of government. What they want goes beyond a plutocracy of the rich. Goldman Conspiracy is creating an Orwellian world that resembles the 14 traits of totalitarianism outlined by Laurence Britt in Free Inquiry, an article that’s become the single most downloaded article in that magazine.

We first reviewed the 14 traits prior to the 2008 election in “[Wall Street’s ‘Disaster Capitalism for Dummies](#).” Since then this trend has rapidly spread across America.

With this trend, the Conspiracy has crossed a dangerous line. Their lobbying efforts make clear they no longer have to pretend America is a democracy.

I do not like what Wall Street’s doing to our freedoms. Years ago I was an investment banker with Morgan Stanley. I’m a patriot, a Marine veteran, volunteered for Korea. I see the Goldman Conspiracy not only killing Adam Smith’s capitalism but also democracy and substituting itself as the new Invisible Hand of God running the economy ... and the government.

14 traits of the Conspiracy's emerging new American government

Britt's historical analysis of totalitarian governments revealed 14 shared traits that are now emerging in this resurgent neo-Reaganomics ideology. As you read these 14 traits that Britt wrote just five years ago in Free Inquiry magazine imagine their impact on your retirement and your children's future under the Goldman Conspiracy's rule, without real reforms. Imagine later, after the next meltdown that Wall Street will trigger:

1. The rich get first priority: laws, tax breaks, favorable regulations
2. Labor and low wages: stagnant for decades, while CEOs skyrocket
3. National security obsession: same paranoia shorts domestic programs
4. Superpower with huge military: war gets 54% of America's budget
5. Extreme nationalism: ego-driven need to feel superior when threaten
6. Demonize "enemies:" manipulates public, tightens central control
7. Corruption and cronyism: the rich get richer with unlimited authority
8. Obsession with crime: psychological projection of guilt onto "them"
9. Contempt for human rights: democratic protections hinder leaders
10. Fraudulent elections: Supreme Court approves political rule by rich
11. Mass media manipulation: new Orwellian world, ends justify means
12. Obsession with sexism: ideologies dictate constitutional freedoms
13. Disdain for intellectuals: Palin, Joe the Plumber replace Bill Buckley
14. Religion in government: anti-science ideologues guide public policy

Yes, officially America is still a democracy. We still have enough rituals to support the illusion. But the truth is, America has become a plutocracy run by and for the wealthy. Now the rich are running a new trickle-down political economy dispensing leftovers as they rule America through lobbyist mega-bucks siphoned from taxpayers and congressional puppets ... all the signs of the new totalitarianism government that most Americans are in denial of even as the Conspiracy flagrantly pushes this agenda.

It's crucial you see the logical outcome of Goldman Conspiracy's agenda as they keep spending upwards of \$400 million on lobbyists to kill financial reforms. They want to destroy Adam Smith's original Invisible Hand of Capitalism. They are blindly obsessed with the new Invisible Hand of Reaganomics that grants economic immortality to Wall Street's too-greedy-to-fail banks, a position that even Ronald Reagan would reject.

Why? Because the Goldman Conspiracy is destroying not just America's economic position as the world's super-power but our moral leadership in the world.

The Goldman Conspiracy's destiny is to blow a new bigger bubble, trigger a new bigger meltdown, and finally drive America into the second Great Depression we dodged twice before.

These guys have no conscience, so be warned. If the financial reforms are as dead as already being widely reported, then the Goldman Conspiracy has won and you should prepare for a repeat of 1929 and the 1930s Depression in the near future.

MarketWatch [home page](#)

TheBurningPlatform [home page](#)

    Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:44 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Joe Bageant: There Ain't No Escape From Collapse

There ain't no escape from collapse

by Joe Bageant [article link](#)

April 21, 2010

Joe,

In response to a letter from a reader ([Joe, why did you crap out on us?](#)), you wrote: "Places like Ecuador, northern California -- all sorts of places -- creating little spots of sustainability as best as possible."

Since the US is the nexus of all the fraud, empire, control, and will thus be the center of the pain in the upcoming financial collapse (AND contains a huge percentage of "useless eaters", i.e. superfluous workers) have you given any thought as to where the best places/countries in the world will be to "hang out" while the Collective Madness and Economic Collapse take over?

Thanks,
Kevin

Reply:

Kevin,

Well, I don't think it's possible to "hang out" until the collapse is over. For starters, it could take 50 years. Or it could take five years. If we knew, more people would probably get off their asses, even in America. But I don't think it will be all at once, or even recognizable at any given moment to techno-hybridized Americans on the ground. For example, most Americans STILL do not recognize the irreversible ecological collapse so well underway. More aware thinkers are calling this "denial," but it is not. They are simply experiencing the world they see before them, as honestly as their senses and experience permit. And that ain't much.

Thanks to technology and layers upon layers of mediation by TV, movies, the Internet, etc., gadgets and manufactured imagery, we all live many steps removed from reality. Collapse is symbolized to each of us in different ways. To some it would be the sustained malfunction and lack of access of the Internet, which is surely coming.

Incidentally, this will be capitalized upon by privatizing the net and selling access at a much higher price, just as with oil. Of course they will experience it as "the consumers" they have been reduced to. So they will see it as bad guys charging money for things that used to be free. Given that their consciousness is a product of technology and its false promise of solutions and endless plentitude, they can never understand that everything is a finite resource and that technology itself can reach such a point of complexity as to be unsustainable. Even your laptop and router is made of petroleum and both eat oil or coal.

Others might perceive collapse as banking failure, given their absolute belief that money is the blood of society -- a capitalist hallucination if ever there was one. My point is that many will not even understand that collapse is going on because capitalism will provide excuses and more fake solutions at ever higher prices -- mainly at the expense of the world's poor and defenseless of course -- until it can no longer extract from them through banking, military force, or other means. This slows down the inevitable and helps the western world maintain its disastrous belief systems. None of which answers your question, but I just had to say it.

There is really no "safe place" to run. For instance, the banking system may utterly fail; actually, it already has, yet no one is calling for an entirely new system. This shows you both the thoroughness of indoctrination of the American people, and the astuteness of the overlords who profit from the masses. Gasoline for cars can become nearly unavailable, and energy prices can become exorbitant, as they are becoming in the UK. And again, people will slowly learn to suck it up, and the system will roll on for a while longer. The more perceptive among them will dream, and are now dreaming, of escape.

Escape as they conceive it does not exist. The ongoing collapse manifests itself in the least developed world too, and even harsher terms: hunger, lack of water, warfare, government corruption, infrastructure collapse, crime. It's a planetary problem and no one escapes that. They just experience it in different ways.

The question is not so much where to do it as how to do it. The question is not "Where can I run to to escape?" It is "What sorts of problems can I best deal with?" To my mind, you cannot deal with them alone, despite the romantic imagery of being "off the grid" on some homestead growing your own food. Yes, there are people doing that successfully. But it has been my experience that they are people who've wanted to do that for a long time, and that they are the kind of people suited to deal with the problems that come with that life. I've done it and believe me, it's not for the average American, who is, quite frankly speaking, incompetent in the ways of the earth. It's a very long learning curve, even if you grew up on a farm. You don't just stick seeds in the ground and wait for your food. Every spot on the earth is unique and you have to come to understand the place you are, which takes time, error and dedication.

Not to be a smart ass or snide, but let me ask: How much do you love your fellow man? Or do you merely want to save your own ass? By now you must know the answer. From what I've seen, a person can be honest with himself on this matter, then pursue either route more effectively.

If you have the temperament and character to readily love other people around you, and the willingness to labor solely for sustenance, community and friendship, then there are countless options. Because that's what most of the rest of world's people do every day, if allowed to. So you could do that in any number of places on the planet, especially here in the New World south of the US. You can do it in literally thousands of places, some of which are in the US. I get emails from all over. But I don't give out contacts anymore because I learned the hard way in Belize that human chemistry is a complex thing. And most Americans do not come into approximately sustainable situations with either the social skills or the willingness to sacrifice for the group. Hell, some Americans starting up such communities don't have those qualities.

Yet, believe me, just being in a place where life is more fundamental and simple, if hard, goes a long way toward peace of mind and discovering human normalcy. It's the learning ground. And usually one learns that people who escape at least some of the ravages of our slow collapse, always seem to do it in cooperation with a community of some sort. Either an already existing one, or an intentional one they create between themselves.

There's nothing new in this, of course. Latin America and the world have countless communities hundreds of year old. Governments come and go, rivers dry up, but the people always have tortillas, one way or another. Americans and Europeans usually see these people as poor, thanks to our heavy social conditioning, industrialization and commoditized consciousness -- not to mention the denial of the effects of colonialism by Euro-American culture. We see no connection between our iPods, high speed wireless, and, say, the present condition of the Haitian or Dominican people.

Anyway, to me, this is the bottom line:

There is no escape in the sense Americans and European culture thinks of escape. Which is mainly running away to a place where you will get something for nothing in a new and different way -- in this case, security and safety from the storm -- and also keep some or most of the stuff and gadgetry and ease that has come to represent "quality of life."

Unless you are rich, this is impossible. And rich these days, including here in Mexico, means so fucking well heeled that even a 90% devaluation cannot hurt you. Oh, there are retirees still living down here on the last shreds of the glory days of the empire. They will tell you there is nothing wrong up there, because they are still getting their checks. But I'm not seeing many newcomers join their ranks. Not at that level. Beyond that, the empire never goes away. It always claims you as its "citizen," which is to say its property. And lately the empire has been extending its tentacles toward expats, in order to extract new money for its failed system.

The rest of us, the non-rich who would prefer to take a shot at some different life -- and just about anything will do in the dark of the night when it is gnawing at your guts -- must choose another way to cross the border (the "gringo wetbacks"). But always we run up against the same barrier, the same closed gateway to what we suspect is greater satisfaction and peace of mind, but increasingly cannot afford the price of admission, if we play the same old brainwashed money game.

I have come to think the price of admission anywhere in the world, (except in America and Europe, where enough dough will get your ass kissed in any circles) is service to others. We have been indoctrinated by an earth devouring capitalist system to believe otherwise. Believe that giving only depletes. And that mankind and civilization came about through kings and warriors and "great men." But the essential glue of man the social animal has always been on cooperation and sharing. That an endless stream of elite thieves have always managed to steal the fruits of that cooperation does not matter. And the best that is in man still rests on the same fundamentals -- cooperation for the greater good of all.

So I would suggest that in planning for the future, you first spend many days pondering the question: How can I best go about giving up the world as I have known it -- which, after all, is the root of our pain and of our catastrophe -- and serve others every day and in as many ways large and small as possible. In other words, sacrifice. In truth, the sacrifice will not be sacrifice, but liberation, because Americans are buried under so much material shit and petty notions as to entitlement, that shedding such things is a blessing. A gift.

From that vantage point you can "watch the collapse" while you help put up a pole barn in Oregon or make love in a Patagonian mountain shack after a hard day of well digging, or smoke a joint in utter relaxation after rescuing orphans from the streets of Guadalajara. And chances are that the collapse of the empire will not much cross your mind.

There is no escape, but there is freedom. And if our fellow Americans long ago forgot that, well, one can still get there alone.

But it's not for the faint of heart.

In art and labor,

Joe

Joe Bageant [blog home](#)

20 Things You Will Need To Survive When The Economy Collapses And The Next Great Depression Begins

Economic Collapse [article link](#)

04.29.10

"Things Are Never Going To Get THAT Bad"

Economic Collapse [article link](#)

04.30.10

The Silver Bear Cafe [home page](#)

Survival is like a game of chess ... and neo-survivalism concepts

[Episode 87](#) (mp3)

April 28th, 2010

Today's Survival Show [home page](#)

What Will a U.S. Economic Collapse Look Like

[Episode-428](#) (mp3)

April 30th, 2010

The Survival Podcast [home page](#)

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:24 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Mike Whitney: The Subprime Conspiracy

The Subprime Conspiracy:

Was There A Plan to Blow Up The Economy?

By Mike Whitney [article link](#)

May 03, 2010 Information Clearing House

Many people now believe that the financial crisis was not an accident. They think that the Bush administration and the Fed knew what Wall Street was up to and provided their support. This isn't as far fetched as it sounds. As we will show, it's clear that Bush, Greenspan and many other high-ranking officials understood the problem with subprime mortgages and knew that a huge asset bubble was emerging that threatened the economy. But while the housing bubble was more than just an innocent mistake, it doesn't rise to the level of "conspiracy" which Webster defines as "a secret agreement between two or more people to perform an unlawful act." It's actually worse than that, because bubblemaking is the dominant policy, and it's used to overcome the structural problems in capitalism itself, mainly stagnation.

The whole idea of a conspiracy diverts attention from what really happened. It conjures up a comical vision of top-hat business tycoons gathered in a smoke-filled room stealthily mapping out the country's future. It ignores the fact, that the main stakeholders don't need to convene a meeting to know what they want. They already know what they want; they want a process that helps them to maintain profitability even while the "real" economy remains stuck in the mud. Historian Robert Brenner has written extensively on this topic and dispels the mistaken view that the economy is "fundamentally strong". (in the words of former Treasury secretary Henry Paulson) Here's Brenner :

"The current crisis is more serious than the worst previous recession of the postwar period, between 1979 and 1982, and could conceivably come to rival the Great Depression, though there is no way of really knowing. Economic forecasters have underestimated how bad it is because they have over-estimated the strength of the real economy and failed to take into account the extent of its dependence upon a buildup of debt that relied on asset price bubbles. In the U.S., during the recent business cycle of the years 2001-2007, GDP growth was by far the slowest of the postwar epoch. There was no increase in private sector employment. The increase in plants and equipment was about a third of the previous, a postwar low. Real wages were basically flat. There was no increase in median family income for the first time since World War II. Economic growth was driven entirely by personal consumption and residential investment, made possible by easy credit and rising house prices. Economic performance was weak, even despite the enormous stimulus from the housing bubble and the Bush administration's huge federal deficits. Housing by itself accounted for almost one-third of the growth of GDP and close to half of the increase in employment in the years 2001-2005. It was, therefore, to be expected that when the housing bubble burst, consumption and residential investment would fall, and the economy would plunge. " ("Overproduction not Financial Collapse is the Heart of the Crisis", Robert P. Brenner speaks with Jeong Seong-jin, Asia Pacific Journal)

What Brenner describes is an economy that's flat on its back; an economy that--despite unfunded tax cuts, massive military spending and gigantic asset bubbles--can barely produce positive growth. The pervasive lethargy of mature capitalist economies, poses huge challenges for industry bosses who are judged solely on their ability to boost quarterly profits. Goldman's Lloyd Blankfein and JPM's Jamie Dimon could care less about economic theory, what they're interested in is making money; how to deploy their capital in a way that maximizes return on investment. "Profits", that's it. And that's much more difficult in a world that's saturated with overcapacity and flagging demand. The world doesn't need more widgets or widget-makers. The only way to ensure profitability is to invent an alternate system altogether, a new universe of financial exotica (CDOs, MBSs, CDSs) that operates independent of the sluggish real economy. Financialization provides that opportunity. It allows the main players to pump-up the leverage, minimize capital-outlay, inflate asset prices, and skim off record profits even while the real economy endures severe stagnation.

Financialization provides a path to wealth creation, which is why the sector's portion of total corporate profits is now nearly 40 percent. It's a way to bypass the pervasive inertia of the production-oriented economy. The Fed's role in this new paradigm is to create a hospitable environment (low interest rates) for bubble-making so the upward transfer of wealth can continue without interruption. Bubblemaking is policy.

As we've pointed out in earlier articles, scores of people knew what was going on during the subprime fiasco. But it's worth a quick review, because Robert Rubin, Alan Greenspan, Timothy Geithner, and others have been defending themselves saying, "Who could have known?".

The FBI knew ("In September 2004, the FBI began publicly warning that there was an "epidemic" of mortgage fraud, and it predicted that it would produce an economic crisis, if it were not dealt with.") The FDIC knew. (In testimony before the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, FDIC chairman Sheila Bair confirmed that she not only warned the Fed of what was going on in 2001, but cited particular regulations (HOEPA) under which the Fed could stop the "unfair, abusive and deceptive practices" by the banks.) Also Fitch ratings knew, and even Alan Greenspan's good friend and former Fed governor Ed Gramlich knew. (Gramlich personally warned Greenspan of the surge in predatory lending that was apparent as early as 2000. Here's a bit of what Gramlich said in the Wall Street Journal:

"I would have liked the Fed to be a leader" in cracking down on predatory lending, Mr. Gramlich, now a scholar at the Urban Institute, said in an interview this past week. Knowing it would be controversial with Mr. Greenspan, whose deregulatory philosophy is well known, Mr. Gramlich broached it to him personally rather than take it to the full board.

"He was opposed to it, so I didn't really pursue it," says Mr. Gramlich. (Wall Street Journal)

So, Greenspan knew, too. And, according to Elizabeth MacDonald in an article titled "Housing Red flags Ignored":

"One of the nation's biggest mortgage industry players repeatedly warned the Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and other bank regulators during the housing bubble that the U.S. faced an imminent housing crash....But bank regulators not only ignored the group's warnings, top Fed officials also went on the airwaves to say the economy was "building on a sturdy foundation" and a housing crash was "unlikely."

So, the Mortgage Insurance Companies of America [MICA] also knew. And, here's a clip from the Washington Post by former New York governor Eliot Spitzer who accused Bush of being a 'partner in crime' in the subprime fiasco. Spitzer says that the OCC launched "an unprecedented assault on state legislatures, as well as on state attorneys general just to make sure the looting would continue without interruption. Here's an except from Spitzer's article:

"In 2003, during the height of the predatory lending crisis....the OCC promulgated new rules that prevented states from enforcing any of their own consumer protection laws against national banks. The federal government's actions were so egregious and so unprecedented that all 50 state attorneys general, and all 50 state banking superintendents, actively fought the new rules. (Washington Post)

So, the Fed knew, the Treasury knew, the FBI knew, the OCC knew, the FDIC knew, Bush knew, the Mortgage Insurance Companies of America knew, Fitch ratings knew, all the states Attorneys General knew, and thousands, of traders, lenders, ratings agency executives, bankers, hedge fund managers, private equity bosses, regulators knew. Everyone knew, except the unlucky people who were victimized in the biggest looting operation of all time.

Once again, looking for conspiracy, just diverts attention from the nature of the crime itself. Here's a statement from former regulator and white collar criminologist William K. Black which helps to clarify the point:

"Fraudulent lenders produce exceptional short-term "profits" through a four-part strategy: extreme growth (Ponzi), lending to uncreditworthy borrowers, extreme leverage, and minimal loss reserves. These exceptional "profits" defeat regulatory restrictions and turn private market discipline perverse. The profits also allow the CEO to convert firm assets for personal benefit through seemingly normal compensation mechanisms. The short-term profits cause stock options to appreciate. Fraudulent CEOs following this strategy are guaranteed extraordinary income while minimizing risks of detection and prosecution." (William K. Black, "Epidemics of 'Control Fraud' Lead to Recurrent, Intensifying Bubbles and Crises", University of Missouri at Kansas City - School of Law)

Black's definition of "control fraud" comes very close to describing what really took place during the subprime mortgage frenzy. The investment banks and other financial institutions bulked up on garbage loans and complex securities backed by

dodgy mortgages so they could increase leverage and rake off large bonuses for themselves. Clearly, they knew the underlying collateral was junk, just as they knew that eventually the market would crash and millions of people would suffer.

But, while its true that Greenspan and the Wall Street mandarins knew how the bubble-game was played; they had no intention of blowing up the whole system. They simply wanted to inflate the bubble, make their profits, and get out before the inevitable crash. But, then something went wrong. When Lehman collapsed, the entire financial system suffered a major heart attack. All of the so-called "experts" models turned out to be wrong.

Here's what happened: Before to the meltdown, the depository "regulated" banks got their funding through the repo market by exchanging collateral (mainly mortgage-backed securities) for short-term loans with the so-called "shadow banks" (investment banks, hedge funds, insurers) But after Lehman defaulted, the funding stream was severely impaired because the prices on mortgage-backed securities kept falling. When the bank-funding system went on the fritz, stocks went into a nosedive sending panicky investors fleeing for the exits. As unbelievable as it sounds, no one saw this coming.

The reason that no one anticipated a run on the shadow banking system, is because the basic architecture of the financial markets has changed dramatically in the last decade due to deregulation. The fundamental structure is different and the traditional stopgaps have been removed. That's why no one knew what to do during the panic. The general assumption was that there would be a one-to-one relationship between defaulting subprime mortgages and defaulting mortgage-backed securities (MBS). That turned out to be a grave miscalculation. The subprimes were only failing at roughly 8 percent rate when the whole secondary market collapsed. Former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill explained it best using a clever analogy. He said, "It's like you have 8 bottles of water and just one of them has arsenic in it. It becomes impossible to sell any of the other bottles because no one knows which one contains the poison."

And that's exactly what happened. The market for structured debt crashed, stocks began to plummet, and the Fed had to step in to save the system. Unfortunately, that same deeply-flawed system is being rebuilt brick-by-brick without any substantive changes.. The Fed and Treasury support this effort, because--as agents of the banks--they are willing to sacrifice their own credibility to defend the primary profit-generating instruments of the industry leaders. (Goldman, JPM, etc) That means that Bernanke and Geithner will go to the mat to oppose any additional regulation on derivatives, securitization and off-balance sheet operations, the same lethal devices that triggered the financial crisis.

So, there was no conspiracy to blow up the financial system, but there is an implicit understanding that the Fed will serve the interests of Wall Street by facilitating asset bubbles through "accommodative" monetary policy and by opposing regulation. It's just "business as usual", but it's far more damaging than any conspiracy, because it ensures that the economy will continue to stagnate, that inequality will continue to grow, and that the gigantic upward transfer of wealth will continue without pause.

Information Clearing House [home page](#)

The Daily Bell

Fixing the Dollar Machine

by Staff Report [article link](#)

Monday, May 03, 2010

The Daily Bell [home page](#)

Confessions of a Wall Street Nihilist:

Forget About Goldman Sachs, Our Entire Economy is Built On Fraud

by Mark Ames [article link](#)

05.01.10

The Silver Bear Cafe [home page](#)

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:19 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monday, May 3, 2010

[Webster G. Tarpley: Fight the Derivatives Cancer](#)

Fight the Derivatives Cancer with a Wall Street Sales Tax, Plus Bans on Hedge Funds, Credit Default Swaps, and Synthetic CDOs

Webster G. Tarpley [article link](#)

April 24, 2010 TARPLEY.net

The Obama administration has been posturing this week about the life and death issue of Wall Street reform. Obama's predicament is that of a Wall Street puppet who has been put into the White House thanks among other things to almost \$1 million of contributions from the infamous Goldman Sachs – but who now needs to make a show of fighting his own Wall Street patrons for political reasons. Of course, Obama's health-care reform was largely a bailout of insurance companies, which are themselves a key part of Wall Street. But Obama is now pretending to quarrel with Wall Street to shore up his waning credibility, partly because many House Democrats are desperately seeking anti-banker, economic populist street creds in order to avoid defeat in November. So far, the results have been largely feckless and inadequate.

The urgent problem raised by all this is the \$1.5 quadrillion derivatives bubble. The financial crisis which struck the United States and the world in September and October 2008 was in fact a world a derivatives panic. This panic marked the first phase of a world economic depression caused by derivatives speculation. The second phase of this depression, which is now beginning, can also be attributed in large part to derivatives, since derivatives are the main tool being used in the speculative attacks on Greece, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Ireland, and other nations, building up towards a chaotic collapse of the euro.

Derivatives are the Cause of the World Depression of Our Time

Far from being some arcane or marginal activity, financial derivatives have come to represent the principal business of the financier oligarchy in Wall Street, the City of London, Frankfurt, and other money centers. A concerted effort has been made by politicians and the news media to hide and camouflage the central role played by derivative speculation in the economic disasters of recent years. Journalists and public relations types have done everything possible to avoid even mentioning derivatives, coining phrases like “toxic assets,” “exotic instruments,” and – most notably – “troubled assets,” as in Troubled Assets Relief Program or TARP, aka the monstrous \$800 billion bailout of Wall Street speculators which was enacted in October 2008 with the support of Bush, Henry Paulson, John McCain, Sarah Palin, and the Obama Democrats.

Asset-Backed Securities

Derivatives can be defined as any financial paper which is based on other financial paper. In other words, they are financial instruments whose value depends upon or is derived from the value of other financial instruments. Any kind of securitization results in the creation of derivatives. If individual mortgages are wrapped up and packaged together as a mortgage-backed security (MBS), that is a derivative. Any asset-backed security (ABS), be it based on car loans, credit card debt, or anything else, also qualifies as a derivative.

Beyond this, there are generally speaking two kinds of derivatives. The first type includes the derivatives which are traded more or less openly on exchanges like the Chicago Board Options Exchange, etc. These include options, futures, and indices, plus all the combinations of these. These are what expire in each quadruple witching hour in the markets. This type of derivative has generally amounted to about \$600 trillion of speculation in recent years.

OTC Derivatives

Then there are the so-called over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives, otherwise known as structured notes, counterparty derivatives, or designer derivatives. These often take the form of contracts which are kept secret by the counterparties, and which are often not included on the balance sheets of banks and other institutions which enter into these contracts. This type of derivative is currently not reportable to any regulatory agency. This secrecy is a result of the successful effort by

Robert Rubin, Larry Summers, and Alan Greenspan to block the modest proposal of Brooksley Born of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to bring the OTC derivatives into the sunlight during the second Clinton administration. Since these derivatives are not reportable at the present time, we must guess at their amount, and the best guess is that OTC derivatives make up almost \$1 quadrillion of ultra-toxic speculation.

CDOs, CDS, and SIVs

OTC derivatives include collateralized debt obligations (CDOs), which often represent the packaging together of large numbers of mortgage backed securities, along with other debt instruments. A CDO can also be concocted out of other CDOs, in which case it qualifies as a synthetic CDO or CDO squared (CDO²). Notice that a synthetic CDO is not really an investment, but rather a form of gambling, in which a speculator in effect places a bet on the performance of some other financial instruments. This fact exposes the big lie inherent in the widespread reactionary myth that the current depression was caused by poor people taking out subprime mortgages on slum properties and then defaulting on these loans, thus bringing down the US and British banking systems. This fantastic story ignores the fact that derivatives were only a wager placed by speculative bettors from afar on mortgage backed securities which included some subprime notes.

Credit default swaps represent bets on whether a given asset or company will go bankrupt or not. As such, they can be used as insurance against such an eventuality, or else they can be used to make money on the insolvency. CDS are therefore a form of insurance, but they are issued by counterparties who have not registered as insurance companies and who have not met the legal and capital requirements which are necessary to function as an insurance company. It ought therefore to be clear that CDS have been totally illegal all along, and have flourished only because of an outrageous failure by state insurance regulators to enforce applicable laws against the privileged class of financiers.

Structured investment vehicles (SIVs) are another type of derivative, commonly used to wrap up masses of CDOs and synthetic CDOs and then to park them off-balance sheet, where they can be hidden from regulatory and public scrutiny.

All Derivatives Illegal under the New Deal, 1936-1982

All kinds of derivatives, be they exchange traded or over-the-counter, were strictly banned and outlawed in the United States between 1936 and 1982 thanks to a wise measure enacted under the New Deal of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In the wake of several attempts by predatory and sociopathic speculators to manipulate the prices of wheat and corn during the First Great Depression, the Commodities Exchange Act of 1936 outlawed the selling of options on agricultural products. This law had the effect of blocking most derivative speculation, until the counterattack of free-market fanatics gathered steam under the presidency of Ronald Reagan, an ideological zealot of the Austrian and Chicago schools. The very existence of derivatives today and their resulting ability to bring on a new world depression are thus directly attributable to the reckless and irresponsible dismantling of the New Deal regulatory regime. It should be added that derivatives were also banned in many states as a result of laws prohibiting gambling or forbidding bucket shops, which were betting parlors in which side bets could be placed on stock market fluctuations.

If Obama wants to pretend to have something in common with Franklin D. Roosevelt, he ought to be proposing measures to ban at least the most poisonous types of derivatives, and to discourage the others. Notice that he does nothing of the kind. Obama's Cooper Union speech of April 22, 2010 approvingly cites Warren Buffett's remark that derivatives represent financial weapons of mass destruction. But Obama then says that derivatives nevertheless have an important and legitimate role to play. So which is it? Some years back, French President Jacques Chirac rightly referred to derivatives as "financial AIDS." What useful purpose can these toxic instruments possibly serve?

Again: in his 1936 re-election speech in Madison Square Garden in New York City, Franklin D. Roosevelt famously noted that the forces of organized money hated him, and that he welcomed their hatred. Obama, in sharp contrast, called on the Wall Street predators to join him in his efforts, compounding this with the monstrous thesis that Wall Street and Main Street are in the same boat. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The recent Goldman Sachs scandal has underlined once again that the Wall Street investment houses serve no useful social purpose whatsoever. They exist solely for the purpose of pursuing speculative profits through a process of looting and pillaging the rest of the economy. The Wall Street zombie banks are monopolizing US credit, while Main Street goes broke.

Thanks no doubt to the efforts of certain House Democrats, the reform bill is likely to contain two points which can qualify as positive half measures.

Force Derivatives Out in the Open

The first is the effort to end the secrecy of OTC derivatives by forcing these instruments to be traded on public exchanges or through clearing houses. This is a step in the right direction. But this provision needs to be strengthened by making all derivatives of any type whatsoever reportable to a central regulatory authority. This would include, for example, the derivatives held by hedge funds. In 1998, the Connecticut-based hedge fund Long-Term Capital Management went bankrupt with more than \$1 trillion worth of derivatives, blowing a huge hole in the international banking system, and causing Greenspan to rush in with a crony bailout. Nobody has any idea of the amount of derivatives held by hedge funds today. Highly leveraged hedge funds are perfectly capable of causing a worldwide systemic crisis with derivatives, so they must emphatically be made to report their holdings.

This reporting requirement should also include the derivatives held by non-financial corporations, whose shareholders deserve to know if and when management is dabbling in these toxic instruments. Some years back, the Gibson Greeting Card Company took a huge loss on derivatives, so this is no theoretical danger.

In addition, all derivatives must henceforth be clearly listed ON the balance sheets of banks and all other financial institutions. The intolerable practice of hiding derivatives off-balance-sheet must be immediately brought to an end.

The other positive half measure which might survive Obama's usual quest for a "bipartisan" sellout is the so-called Volcker Rule, which specifies that commercial banks with insured deposits are not allowed to engage in proprietary speculation with their own money. Depending on how this is worded, this may include a long overdue ban on derivatives speculation by commercial banks. Senator Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas, the chair of the Senate Agriculture committee—who is fighting for her political life against a primary challenge this spring—has been backing a provision that would explicitly prohibit commercial banks from engaging in derivatives speculation. These ideas go in the right direction. But we need to do much more. We need to go back to the full New Deal regulations embodied in the Glass-Steagall Act. This law stated that a financial institution could be either a commercial bank, or an investment house, or an insurance company, but never more than one of these. In other words, the suicidal folly of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999, which repealed Glass-Steagall, must be rolled back.

Outlaw Credit Default Swaps

Beyond this, we must urgently address the catastrophic effects and obvious illegality of credit default swaps. More than a year ago, Senator Warner of Virginia asked Fed boss Bernanke about the advisability of creating a "bright line prohibition" against these CDS. Remember that CDS are already illegal, because they always involve an investor masquerading as an insurance company without having fulfilled the legal and capital requirements that would be demanded from a real insurance company. Credit default swaps have cost the US taxpayer almost \$200 billion in the case of AIG alone, because of the bankruptcy of the AIG London-based hedge fund which had issued more than \$3 trillion of derivatives – a total greater than the gross domestic product of France.

Credit default swaps are also a clear and present danger today, since they are the principal tool being used by wolf packs of banks and hedge funds against Greece and other nations, accelerating the arrival of the dreaded second wave of the world economic depression. Unless credit default swaps are banned now, they will be increasingly used for speculative attacks against the bonded debt of American states like California, New York, Illinois, and all the others. Before long, credit default swaps will be used by international speculators to attack the value and integrity of United States Treasury securities, threatening our country with the calamity of national bankruptcy. If the United States fails to shut down credit default swaps with timely legislation now, credit default swaps will be used to help destroy the United States and human civilization in general.

Ban Synthetic CDOs

The synthetic CDO or CDO² must also be outlawed. These are the toxic instruments which brought down Bear Stearns, Merrill Lynch, and Lehman Brothers in the great derivatives panic of 2008. What are we waiting for to ban this kind of highly destructive derivative? Such a ban is easy to formulate: “Any collateralized debt obligation which contains other collateralized debt obligations is hereby prohibited.” End of story. This language recalls the approach of the very successful Public Utility Holding Company Act of the New Deal. One layer of CDO is more than enough risk, and it must not be further compounded.

Another ban which is long overdue and which should be included in the current legislation is the outlawing of the Adjustable Rate Mortgage (ARM). The ARM is another catastrophic innovation of recent decades which inherently carries with it an intolerable risk for any homeowner. No American family should be deprived of a roof over their heads because of the unpredictable and volatile fluctuations of interest rates over the life of a mortgage. These ARMs shift an unacceptable risk to the mortgage buyer. Fixed-rate mortgages should be the only legal kind, and any reset or change in interest rates on a residential mortgage should be strictly outlawed. While we are at it, we also need to outlaw the high-interest payday loan, a type of devastating usury to which the poorest and most defenseless parts of our population are now exposed. The outlawing of payday loans should take the form of a de facto federal usury law establishing an upper limit of no more than 10% on any promissory note or credit card. This was the limit traditionally set by state usury laws before the coming of the Volcker 22% prime rate three decades ago, and it should be restored. This simple prohibition of adjustable rate mortgages and payday loans will be far more effective than the proposed creation of an inefficient and unwieldy consumer protection bureaucracy, especially one that is located inside the Federal Reserve. The Federal Reserve has repeatedly struck out when it comes to recognizing systemic risk, when it comes to preventing financial bubbles, and when it comes to protecting ordinary Americans. The Federal Reserve failed in the run-up to the crash of 1929, in the run-up to the banking crisis of 1933, in the run-up to the stock market crash of 1987, in preventing the dot com bubble of 1999-2000, and in regard to the financial derivatives which caused the banking panic of 2008. Locating any consumer protection bureaucracy inside the privately owned Federal Reserve is simply to guarantee that such a bureaucracy will be subject to regulatory capture by Wall Street at the earliest possible moment.

Wall Street Sales Tax of 1% on All Financial Transactions

Derivatives which escape prohibition under these blanket bans on credit default swaps and synthetic CDOs must then be subjected to their fair share of the tax burden. In a time when haircuts, bowling alleys, and restaurants are threatened with new taxation, it is simply inconceivable that the financial turnover of US financial markets should remain immune to all taxation, rather like the French aristocrats of the pre-1789 old regime. Rather than crush the US economy under an ill-advised and oppressive Value Added Tax (VAT) or national sales tax, we must institute a Wall Street sales tax of 1% on all financial transactions and turnover, including derivatives. This is the levy known as the Tobin tax, the Wall Street sales tax, the financial transactions tax, the trading tax, the securities transfer tax, or the Robin Hood tax. A low-ball conservative estimate of US financial turnover (including derivatives) in any given year might be about one quadrillion dollars. In that case, a 1% Wall Street sales tax would yield \$10 trillion, \$5 trillion of which could be used to confront the federal budget deficit, the costs of entitlements, and the various unfunded liabilities of the federal government. The other \$5 trillion would be available for revenue sharing with the states, who could use these funds to deal with their own budget crises, which currently threaten police, firemen, health services, and other indispensable parts of the fabric of civilization itself. One of the main causes for budget deficits of all levels of government in the United States is the glaringly obvious exemption of financial turnover from all taxation, while financial speculators use various tricks to escape paying the corporate income tax. The proceeds from such a Wall Street sales tax would almost certainly decline as speculation became less attractive, but in the meantime they would provide much-needed relief for the public treasury. Needless to say, any idea of paying the proceeds of such a tax to the International Monetary Fund is out of the question. Many other countries are in the process of instituting a Tobin tax on financial turnover, so the inevitable objection that a Wall Street sales tax would represent a crippling competitive disadvantage for US financial markets is increasingly untenable.

Additional Safeguards: Bankruptcy Triage, Reserve Requirement, Hedge Fund Ban

Further safeguards against the derivatives plague are also in order. Current bankruptcy law gives special privileged treatment to derivatives. These poisonous instruments continue to exact their claims even when protection against other creditors has been provided by the federal courts. This abusive and unwarranted favoring of derivatives must be reversed. Derivatives must be made to wait their turn in bankruptcy court, and sent to the end of the line after all other creditors and claims have been satisfied. If bankruptcy triage becomes necessary, it should be at the expense of derivatives.

Another needed measure is the establishment of a reserve requirement for anyone issuing derivatives. We have seen how Goldman Sachs is accused of designing their notorious ABACUS 2007-AC1 CDO, colluding with hedge fund speculator John Paulson to load this CDO with all kinds of super-toxic paper with the intent of designing an instrument which would have the best possible chances of going bankrupt in the short run. A reserve requirement for those issuing derivatives would mean that they would have to buy and hold on their own books for the life of the investment at least 20% of any derivatives they issued. This would represent an additional deterrent against the deliberate concocting of toxic derivatives with the intention of then allowing a speculator to short them with the help of credit default swaps.

A final necessary change involves the grave risk inherent in the existence of hedge funds. Despite their name, the main business of hedge funds is pure predatory speculation. Hedge funds are currently allowed to fly below the radar of the Securities and Exchange Commission, escaping regulation because they have only a limited number of super-rich investors. It is high time that this loophole came to an end. Once a hedge fund is regulated, it is no longer a hedge fund, so the call to regulate hedge funds is for all practical purposes a call for their abolition. Hedge funds should have been subject to regulation no later than the immediate aftermath of the Long-Term Capital Management debacle of 1998. The hedge fund loophole in the SEC rules must be closed now.

Seize and Liquidate the Zombie Banks

Obama's \$50 billion resolution fund for bankrupt banks is unnecessary. What we need most of all is to have the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Comptroller of the Currency, and other regulators enforce the applicable laws. Every Friday, Sheila Bair of the FDIC shuts down a number of small town banks because of insolvency. In her interview yesterday on CNBC, Ms. Bair blatantly admitted that she has no intention of enforcing these same public laws against the large Wall Street and other money center banks. She covers this malfeasance and nonfeasance with her opinion that bankruptcy does not work for the big banks. But there is little doubt that, if their massive derivatives holdings were priced according to mark to market rules, J.P. Morgan Chase, Citibank, and Bank of America would all be thoroughly insolvent candidates for Chapter 7 liquidation. Unless and until this is done, these zombie banks will continue to block any real economic recovery in the United States. Ms. Bair's policies showed the destructive folly of the current administration's illegal policies, which are all based in the final analysis on the discredited doctrine of Too Big to Fail.

Any Wall Street reform bill should also deal with the public scandal of the ratings agencies – Standard & Poor's, Fitch, and Moody's. These agencies enjoy a quasi-governmental status when it comes to certifying the quality of certain investments. But the failure of these agencies to provide timely warnings during the onset of the derivatives panic was nothing short of spectacular. During that crisis, the ratings agencies were certifying investments as AAA investment-grade until mere hours before they collapsed. Senator Carl Levin's investigation of the ratings agencies has now unearthed horror stories of corruption and incompetence. The ratings agencies need to be stripped of any special role in relation to the United States government. Senator Levin's findings merit criminal referrals to the Justice Department for prosecution of these agencies and their executives. In short, the United States government should take this opportunity to shut down these rating agencies, before these corrupt entities join in the looming speculative assault on the US Treasury, which is being prepared by George Soros and the other hedge funds.

Wall Street speculators will certainly howl that the measures outlined here represent a vindictive policy of discrimination against derivatives, which they will attempt to portray as a beneficial innovation serving the public interest. But no serious analysis of the banking panic of 2008 can ignore the obvious role of financial derivatives as one of the principal causes of this disaster. As for the charge of discrimination, it should be clear that the proposals made here generally represent nothing more than ending the privileged special treatment which has been granted to derivatives so far. Derivatives have been

exempted from the gambling laws. Derivatives have been given special status in bankruptcy proceedings. Derivatives have been made non-reportable, and carrying them off balance sheet has been allowed. Derivatives have been exempted from the usual laws governing the operations of insurance companies. Hedge funds have been exempted from the scrutiny of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Wall Street derivatives banks have been exempted from the usual bankruptcy laws and probably from the antitrust laws as well. Finally, derivatives, like all financial instruments, have been exempted from state sales taxes. This distorted treatment amounts to a systematic pattern of facilitating and fostering derivatives speculation under US laws and regulations. This pattern might be defensible if derivatives represented a public good. But all experience shows that derivatives are just the opposite – they are a public menace which now threatens to destroy our civilization and way of life.

Webster Griffin Tarpley [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:26 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Harry V. Martin: The Federal Reserve Bunk

The Federal Reserve Bunk

by Harry V. Martin [article link](#)

1995 Essay

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

(Editor's note: Mr. Martin completed his research on this subject and published the following essay in 1995. He was certainly not the first writer who enjoyed the capability for critical thought to arrive at the same conclusion. The American citizenry has been constantly warned about the insidious parasite, which is the Federal Reserve Bank, since before the bill was passed (illegally) in 1913. We have a forum specifically dedicated to trying to inform you that the Federal Reserve is not part of the problem, it is the whole problem. Everything that is wrong with our economy (and that of the rest of the World for that matter) is a direct result of the operations of the Federal Reserve. Until it is abolished, and most of its members jailed, we will be, and remain, debt slaves. - JSB)

Article I, Section 8, Clause 5, of the United States Constitution provides that Congress shall have the power to coin money and regulate the value thereof and of any foreign coins. But that is not the case. The United States government has no power to issue money, control the flow of money, or to even distribute it - that belongs to a private corporation registered in the State of Delaware - the Federal Reserve Bank.

The Federal Reserve System was established by President Woodrow Wilson in 1913. The premise used by President Wilson and his financial advisors for the establishment of the Federal Reserve System was to "supplant the dictatorship of the private banking institutions" and "to stabilize the inflexibility of national bank note supplies". The previous system of banking was "feudal" in nature, in which private bankers control communities and could issue their own bank notes. They had little regulations concerning reserve assets and loan policies. Banking was a patch-quilt of institutions scattered across the face of the nation with no central policy.

With the advent of the Federal Reserve a new currency was issued - Federal Reserve notes, which at the time were based on the gold standard. The Federal Reserve was to unite and supervise the entire banking system, control the expansion or contraction of currency, and regulate the flow of money to the commercial banks through the establishment of 12 Federal Reserve Banks. The Federal Reserve is controlled by private banking interest and by Presidential appointment - but it is still a private organization and not a government entity. In 1913, President Wilson's creation of the Federal Reserve System established a three-tier monetary system in the United States - the holders of money (public, government, business and institutions; the commercial banks that borrow from the public and issue loans; and the central bank or Federal Reserve that has a monopoly on the issuing of money. The Federal Reserve is technically owned by the commercial banks.

Federal Reserve Controls the Money, not the Government

The monetary policy of the United States is the domain of the Federal Reserve Bank and not the government. This process is in direct contradiction of the U.S. Constitution that reposes the responsibility of the monetary system with the Congress of the United States. On April 27, 1936, hearings were held by the House Committee on Banking and Currency. The preamble of the bill - HR 9216 of the Seventy-fourth Congress, states, "The committee had under consideration the bill (HR 9216) to restore to Congress its constitutional power to issue money and regulate the value thereof; to provide monetary income to the people of the United States at a fixed and equitable purchasing power of the dollar, ample at all times to enable the people to buy wanted goods and services at full capacity of the industries and commercial facilities of the United States; to abolish the practice of creating bank deposits by private groups upon fractional reserves, and for other purposes."

The Congress declared, "Whereas the permanent welfare of the people and the protection of the economic life of the Nation are dependent on the establishment of a monetary system wholly subject to the control of Congress that will promote the interests of agriculture and labor, of industry, trade, commerce, and finance for the economic well being of all citizens by the maintenance of an adequate supply of money with a unit of fixed average purchasing power, which will avoid excessive expansion or disastrous contraction." That preamble led to the body of the text. "Section 1. That it is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress to provide such issuances of certificates of national credit as shall be requisite so to increase the purchasing power of the consumers of the United States as to make it conform to the capacity of the industries and people of the United States for the production and delivery of wanted goods and services, which capacity be declared to be the measure of national credit." The Congress attempted to issue non-interest bearing Treasury Notes. A Federal Credit Commission linked to the Secretary of the Treasury was the goal of Congress.

The Commission was to consist of seven commissioners appointed by the President with approval of the U.S. Senate. U.S. citizenship was a prime requirement and they could not have more than four from one political party. It was also made unlawful for anyone to interfere with the commission. The concern of Congress was that banks were issuing loans without the backing of real deposits and that it was controlling money based on the price it attracted on international money markets or by the amount of interest they could charge. The Congress wanted to withdraw from the banks the right to issue credit on fractional reserves, and leave the banks the right to issue credit on account of actual deposits, which means that permanent money will be loaned not bank manufactured money.

"By this bill, Congress resumes its constitutional duty of issuing money and regulating its value, a duty and a right which it has long been abdicated to the private banking system," read the preamble of the bill. The bill would have eliminated the private manufacture of money - a direct contravention of the mandate of the Constitution, which places the right to coin money in the hands of Congress.

Paying Off the National Debt

The bill would have allowed the nation to pay off its national debt and stay out of debt. In one year's time, with this bill, the national debt could have been paid, and without any tax increases, plus it would have allowed for full employment.

"Because of the unsound practice of relying on the private manufacturing of monetary credits by private groups, you are preparing to lay heavier taxes on the shrunken income of the people, without hope of balancing the Budget perhaps for years to come," was the testimony of Allen B. Brown, chairman of the New Economic Group. Remember, this testimony is in 1936. "In order to meet the Budget deficits, this administration and the preceding one committed themselves to a program of borrowing, so that now the national debt has doubled with every prospect of further increase. More than half of this great sum of added debt represents merely book figure which the banks have lent the Government. To pay for their service of writing figures on their books and canceling the Government checks in their clearing system, the Government has engaged to tax the American people. They must pay back the billions of book figures with sweat and labor, with goods and services to which they are now denied access of purchasing power for their families, and they must pay enormous debt charges." Brown said that the bill before Congress would "put a stop to this process of privately manufacturing monetary credit for the use of business out of added government debt."

"The banks manufacture, without borrowing it, the monetary credit which they loan to the Government. For every dollar they themselves contribute to the loaning process, they manufacture 10 credit dollars, and call them their own, although

they base the credit dollars on human sweat and labor and productive genius that is not their own." The comments by Brown was a direct slap at the Federal Reserve System - that was only 23 years old, at the time. "The crying fault of our prevailing money system is its impermanence. It fluctuates wildly in volume, because it is debt-money, loans, and subject alternately to the fears and the sanguine expectations and speculative propensities of its private owners who have become the debt-masters of all business." He added, "We need to be delivered of the curse of a money system that is not owned, as a cash-credit system, by the American people. We want no longer a system that can at any time be cancelled out of existence with the dumping of pledged securities and, simultaneously, with the depression and deflation of all the physical and intangible assets of the American people."

The bill would have ended immediately the private monetary credit inflation. The Federal Reserve can create money out of nothing, simply printing it, lending it and printing more. You could have guessed that this bill never became law in 1936 - the banking interest was too powerful.

Kennedy Tried to Change It

In 1963, President John Kennedy wanted an end to the Federal Reserve System, which had a strangle-hold on the United States and virtually the world. By a simple stroke of the pen, President Kennedy dismissed the Federal Reserve System and ordered the U.S. government to restore its Constitutional-mandate of controlling the money. President Kennedy was dead three weeks later. When President Lyndon Johnson took office, he immediately rescinded Kennedy's order and the Federal Reserve won another round.

Representative Charles A. Lindberg, Sr., the father of the famous aviator, was a member of the Banking and Currency Committee. He opposed the Federal Reserve Act and gave a speech on January 20, 1915. "The system is private, conducted for the sole purpose of obtaining the greatest possible profits from the use of other people's money, and in the interest of the stockholders and those allied with them." Representative Louis T. McFadden, chairman of the Housing Banking and Currency Committee, stated on June 10, 1932, "Some people think the Federal Reserve Banks are United States Government institutions. They are not Government institutions. They are private credit monopolies that prey upon the people of the United States for the benefit of themselves and their foreign and domestic swindlers; and rich and predatory money lenders."

Foreign Bankers own a Majority of the Federal Reserve

More than half the shareholdings in the Federal Reserve Bank are controlled by large New York City banks, including National City Bank, National Bank of Commerce, First National Bank, Chase National Bank, and Marine National Bank. When Rockefeller's National City Bank merged with J.P. Morgan's First National Bank in 1955, the Rockefeller group owned 22 percent of the shares of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, which in turn holds the majority of shares in the Federal Reserve System - 53 percent. But who really owns what? Here are the top controllers of the Federal Reserve Bank

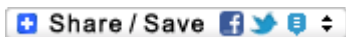
1. Rothschild banks of London and Berlin.
2. Lazard Brothers Banks of Paris.
3. Israel Moses Seif Banks of Italy.
4. Warburg Bank of Hamburg and Amsterdam.
5. Lehman Brothers Bank of New York.
6. Kuhn, Loeb bank of New York.
7. Chase Manhattan Bank of New York, which controls all of the other 11 Federal Reserve Banks.
8. Goldman, Sachs Bank of New York.

This ownership combination has been challenged by the Federal Reserve Bank, but a study of Standards and Poors will verify the ownerships. This means that the controlling interest of our national monetary system is foreign. In 1797, John Adams wrote to Thomas Jefferson, "All the perplexities, confusion and distress in America arise, not from defects of the Constitution or Confederation; not from any want of honor or virtue, as much as downright ignorance of the nature of coin, credit and circulation." In simple terms, the United States Government borrows money from the Federal Reserve Bank with interest. Here is how it works: The Government wants \$1 billion. The Federal Reserve prints \$1 billion - based upon no hard asset - and lends it to the Government at a high interest rate. The bank did not have the original money, it created it and made a bookkeeping entry - like you writing yourself a check without funds and cashing it. The Federal Reserve controls the flow of money, making it tight and creating unemployment or printing more than actually exists and creates inflation. It is, in wessence, a paper corporation, which controls the entire economic well-being of the nation.

Conclusion

No Congress, no President has been strong enough to stand up to the foreign-controlled Federal Reserve Bank. **Yet there is a catch - one that President Kennedy recognized before he was slain - the original deal in 1913 creating the Federal Reserve Bank had a simple backout clause. The investors loaned the United States Government \$1 billion. And the backout clause allows the United States to buy out the system for that \$1 billion. If the Federal Reserve Bank were demolished and the Congress of the United States took control of the currency, as required in the Constitution, the National Debt would virtually end overnight, and the need for more taxes and even the income tax, itself.** Thomas Jefferson was concise in his early warning to the American nation, "If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issuance of their currency, first by inflation and then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around them will deprive the people of all their property until their children will wake up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered."

The Silver Bear Cafe [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:18 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

[Mammon or Messiah research](#)

Monday, May 3, 2010

[Julian Baggini: Out of Sight, Out of Mind](#)

Like Generations Before Us, We Make Excuses for the Clear Injustices of Our Age.

We know slavery was an abhorrence, and that sexism and racism are wrong. Does that make our society more ethical? Not at all.

Out of Sight, Out of Mind:

By Julian Baggini [article link](#) [article link](#)

May 03, 2010 The Independent

Saturday was International Labor Day, though you'd hardly know it. For all but some trade unions and fringe socialist groups, it's just the dimly remembered rationale for the early May Bank Holiday.

Few even know that 1 May 1886 was the date declared by the American Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions for the start of the eight-hour working day. It took violently resisted strikes and years of campaigning to achieve their goal, the fruits of which we now take for granted.

The struggles of the early labor movement feel very remote today. The same goes for other great social movements of the not-so-distant past: slavery was only finally abolished in Britain in 1833; women only received the same voting rights as men in Britain in 1928; and racism only started to become widely unacceptable in Britain in the late Sixties.

Today, no issue has a comparable moral urgency for so many. But we should not assume that all the great battles have been won, and that all we have left to do is dot the ethical I's and cross the moral T's.

While the sins of our forebears are all too evident, the wickedness of our own age is much harder to discern. It would take a great deal of moral certitude, a kind of ethical hubris, to suppose that we are the first generation in human history not to be blind to some kind of systemic wrongdoing. There are two obvious candidates for unacknowledged moral outrages of our time. This first is the way we treat animals. Marjorie Spiegel wrote a book called *The Dreaded Comparison: Human and Animal Slavery*. Jonathan Balcombe, author of the recent *Second Nature: The Inner Lives of Animals*, dares to make that comparison: "Future generations will look back on the present and shake its collective head that we should have treated other sentient creatures as if they were so many blocks of wood."

But while I think we will come to see many of our current attitudes to animals, particularly factory-farming practices, as morally wrong, history should not judge today's farmers as we judge slave owners. Non-human animals differ from each other and us in morally significant ways. "Races" of humans or men and women, on the other hand, do not.

A second, more fashionable, candidate for our own unjustified moral outrage is the way in which we are contributing to climate change. We may indeed be judged harshly by history, but we do not deserve the kind of moral condemnation we pass on slavery, primarily because there is nothing inherently immoral about burning fossil fuels. Indeed, if the world were catastrophically cooling, it might be our moral duty to release as much CO₂ into the atmosphere as possible.

We need to look elsewhere for our current moral blind spots. To do so, it might help to ask what the great moral blind spots of the past had in common. The key factor was that they all involved a demonstrable failure to treat like as like. Slavery, racism and the subjugation of women all came to be seen as wrong because there was simply no justification for treating these oppressed groups differently to the rest of humanity. So what stopped people realizing their errors for so long? An unholy trinity of innumerable self-serving, "common-sense" justifications, bolstered by widespread false assumptions, in the absence of a strong enough motivation to challenge them.

There is a contemporary injustice that fits this pattern, and May Day is the perfect time to bring it to the fore. We are all implicated in it, it is an evident moral wrong, and it has numerous common-sense and even expert justifications which crumble on examination. But because so few people are up close to the reality of the injustice, and because it would be so inconvenient to confront it, we complacently go along with the status quo. That moral blind spot is the way in which we treat labor, usually in the developing world, at the end of our global supply chains.

The fact that this is a gross, manifest wrong can be made clear by a general principle, which all but the most rabid of free-marketeers must surely accept: it is morally wrong to exploit a fellow human being by using their need as leverage to make them work for as little as you can possibly pay them.

Consider this example. A vulnerable person you know knocks on your door and says that unless they get £10 to repay a loan shark within 24 hours, they will be severely beaten. It just so happens that you are an MP and so need to dig a large moat around your house. Would it be morally acceptable to say, "I'll give you the money, just as long as you spend the next 24 hours digging"? The very suggestion is obscene.

The example is extreme, and some provisos need to be added to make the principle robust: for example, it assumes that you are able to pay them more, or demand less from them, without any significant self-sacrifice; and that no other bad

consequences follow from paying more than the minimum. But these caveats aside, should someone seek to disagree with this principle, I fear they are beyond moral persuasion.

If the wrongdoing is so evident, then why is it that we don't change our behavior accordingly? As with slavery, the answer is that there are numerous common-sense but feeble justifications, maintained by self-interest and false assumptions. These are the equivalents of the Bible verses once quoted by "good Christian" apologists for slavery, such as, "You may acquire male and female slaves from the pagan nations that are around you." (Leviticus 25:44)

For instance, the fact that the people we exploit are not poor relative to those they live with is a red herring. The same kind of reasoning would lead us to say that slavery is acceptable because slaves are no less free than their fellow slaves, or that we should not worry about inner-city deprivation because that is normal for inner cities.

One obvious difference between the moat digger and workers at the end of global supply chains is that we do not pay them directly, and they live thousands of miles away. Both of these differences are psychologically powerful but morally irrelevant. If I kill a man 10,000 miles away with a remotely guided missile, I am no less culpable than if I had shot him in the chest from 3 feet. The geographical distance is irrelevant.

The same is true of indirectness. If I contract a builder who uses slaves, I am just as wrong as if I own the slaves myself; just as I am equally guilty of murder if I take out a contract on someone as if I kill them personally.

Consider now, not murder or 24-hour moat digging, but coffee growing. Over recent decades, the market price for coffee beans has often fallen below the costs of production, meaning that farmers actually worked at a loss to satisfy the caffeine cravings of Western consumers.

But because the vast bulk of coffee is traded on open markets, manufacturers paid only the market price, irrespective of what that meant for growers. As a result, they - and through them the consumers - used growers' desperate need to at least get some return on their crop as leverage to make them accept as little as we could possibly pay them.

Faced with this manifest injustice, we are apt to react as the slave owners did. Because the victims are far away and harmed only indirectly by our indifference, it just seems incredible to think we're implicated in a massive injustice. Because the status quo seems so natural and nothing feels wrong about drinking coffee, we convince ourselves that arguments that say we are acting immorally must be flawed. It just can't be right that good, decent people such as ourselves are systematically behaving so badly. But slave owners were not moral monsters either. They were people considered, by themselves and others, to be decent, virtuous people, like George Washington, the first President of the United States.

Other spurious defenses are a little more sophisticated. Johan Norberg, author of *In Defense of Global Capitalism*, argues that "in a typical developing nation, if you're able to work for an American multinational you make eight times the average wage. That's why people are lining up to get these jobs."

There are actually two arguments here that often get confused. One is that people freely choose to take the jobs they do, so that makes it all right. The second is, "A lousy job is better than none at all," as the Dallas-based, free-market National Center for Policy Analysis puts it.

Take the free-choice defence first. It would be comforting to believe that since people choose to work for peanuts, that makes everything alright. When it comes to the likes of sex workers, people who work in sweatshops, soldiers who get shot, the people who have to clean the toilets you use, you can always tell yourself: they didn't have to do it - it was their choice.

But the idea that there is no problem as long as there is consent is flawed for several reasons. First, people sometimes have to choose terrible things because in practical terms they have no choice. Prostitution is a good example. There are some, maybe many, *Belle de Jour*s for whom sex work is not a last resort but a deliberate career move, but in many cases women are driven to prostitution out of desperation. Any man who thinks prostitution is never exploitative just as long as the woman isn't being physically forced into the job is surely deluded.

Second, the fact that something unpleasant is the best choice available to someone doesn't make it ok, if we could be offering them a better one at little or no cost. It is not uncommon for managers in factories in the developing world that supply the West to refuse their workers sufficient toilet breaks, deny them drinking water, fail to follow local laws or health and safety procedures - the list could go on. So what if working in one of these places is still the best option locally? If paying a little bit more could remove all these hardships, why not do it?

There are always more options than the free-market apologists set out. For instance, the Guatemalan economist Lucy Martinez-Mont wrote in The Wall Street Journal that "banning imports of child-made goods would eliminate jobs, hike labor costs, drive plants from poor countries and increase debt. Rich countries would sabotage Third World countries and deny poor children any hope of a better future."

True, but the choice is not between the status quo and banning such imports, nor is it between sweatshops or Western pay and conditions. It's between the opportunity to earn a decent living in a decent job, and working long hours in poor conditions for barely enough to live on.

Most "fair trade" campaigners are sensitive to this. For example, the Maquila Solidarity Network advises, "Don't promote a blanket boycott of all goods produced by child labor," precisely on the grounds that simply withdrawing custom and leaving nothing in its place is harmful to those they want to help. The Ethical Trade Initiative base code prohibits "new recruitment of child labor" and insists that member companies "shall develop or participate in, and contribute to, policies and programs which provide for the transition of any child found to be performing child labor to enable her or him to attend and remain in quality education until no longer a child."

The point is simple. Poor working conditions may be better than nothing, but that does not justify us supporting poor working conditions. The alternative should not be nothing, but making things better. (Parents who feed their child junk food cannot say that they should not be criticized because junk food is better than no food, because there is the option of offering proper food.)

We all do indeed have many alternatives to buying products which rely on exploited labor. Fairtrade-certified teas and coffees, for example, are now widely available, while many companies outside such schemes nonetheless treat their suppliers well, such as the Caffè Nero chain and many small independent roasters. The moral case I am making does not entail any commitment to rabid anti-globalization.

With clothing, it is more difficult. But we can nonetheless choose to buy our garments from companies with sound policies on sourcing, such as those signed up to the Ethical Trade Initiative's base code. These are not just hippy-dippy purveyors of hemp kaftans, but mainstream retailers like Next, Marks & Spencer and Mothercare. While it may seem a "bother" to find out which companies have decent policies, and annoying to boycott shops whose styles we like, these are hardly great sacrifices. It was no doubt once inconvenient not relying on slave labor.

Some see all this promotion of fair trade as a distraction. What the developing world needs most of all, they claim, is a genuinely free global market. Coffee farmers would have no trouble making a good living from their beans if advanced Western nations eliminated import tariffs, farm subsidies and other distortions to the market.

The problem with this argument is that the question facing us is not how we should behave if global trade were truly free, but how we should behave as things are now. The free marketeer, if genuinely concerned by morality, should both campaign for freer trade and, in the interim, avoid reinforcing the injustices of the current system.

It is somewhat baffling that so many criticisms of the fair-trade alternative to exploitation are rooted in free-market thinking. The Adam Smith Institute, for instance, insists fair trade means that "its favored farmers do not have to respect market conditions which might tell others to cut back production in the event of a world surplus". The Economist claims that fair trade encourages overproduction by "propping up the price" of commodities.

The reality is that initiatives like the Fairtrade label are free-market mechanisms par excellence. Fair trade is not like government subsidy, which fixes prices of a whole nation's crops. It is a voluntary, consumer subsidy, no more contrary to

free-market economics than the decision to volunteer an extra 25p to have a shot of syrup in your latte. The premium paid on fair-trade coffee is not a market-bucking one but a market-dependent one.

The price is higher solely because consumers want to pay the extra for the benefits they believe that produces. Others prefer to pay extra for a celebrity endorsed product, or one with a logo. Yet I do not hear economists protesting that the prices of Adidas T-shirts are kept "artificially high" by designer-labeling schemes.

The way we treat suppliers in the developing world is a moral disgrace, and none of the defenses stand up to scrutiny. The optimal solution is up for debate, but the fundamental wrongness is not. The injustice persists because of psychological weakness, not moral rightness. And I don't claim to be immune from this. I argue this case passionately and adjust my behavior to a certain extent, but I don't check the provenance of every item of clothing or foodstuff I buy. This weakness is natural - but that only explains, it doesn't excuse.

The plight of workers at the end of global supply chains means that Labor Day should have a new focus and new importance. It is no longer our rights that are most in need of defence, but those of people on whom much of our hard-won comfort depends.

There is no doubt that the conclusions of this argument are unsettling. But if future generations were to look back at our period in history and judge that we were grossly immoral, is there anything inaccurate in what they would say?

"At the start of the 21st century, Westerners enjoyed slightly cheaper goods only because they were indifferent to the welfare of those who produced them and supported a system which saw suppliers work for as little as they could get away with paying them. People pointed this out, and they could have eliminated the problem simply by paying just a little bit more for their basic goods - less per week than they spent on a couple of pints of beer on a Friday night.

"But they dismissed the critics as cranks and carried on as usual. They were convinced that, having abolished slavery and taken steps to eliminate racism and sexism, they had nothing else to feel guilty about. Their complacency is warning to us, and to all times, that humans are always blind to the gross injustices that form part of the fabric of their everyday lives."

Julian Baggini is author of 'Do They Think You're Stupid?: 100 Ways of Spotting Spin and Nonsense from the Media, Celebrities and Politicians' (Granta).

© 2010 Independent/UK
The Independent [home page](#)

No One Cares
By Chris Hedges [article link](#)
May 03, 2010 truthdig
truthdig [home page](#)

Elitism and Empathy in American Presidents:
Who Cares for the Suffering Children
By William Cox [article link](#)
May 03, 2010 "ICH"
Information Clearing House [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:12 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Sunday, May 2, 2010

Paul Joseph Watson: G20/BIS World Government

Secretive Group of International Bankers to form a World Government?

by Paul Joseph Watson [article link](#)

Global Research, May 2, 2010

Prison Planet - 2010-04-29

ECB President tells insiders that secretive group of international bankers – responsible to no nation state – will become primary engine of world government

In a speech before the elitist Council On Foreign Relations organization in New York earlier this week, President of the European Central Bank Jean-Claude Trichet called for the imposition of global governance to be bossed by the G20 and the corrupt Bank of International Settlements in the name of safeguarding the global economy.

In an address entitled “[Global Governance Today](#),” Trichet proclaims how the elite need to impose “A set of rules, institutions, informal groupings and cooperation mechanisms that we call “global governance”.

During the course of the speech, Trichet uses the term “global governance” well over a dozen times, outlining how “global governance is of the essence” to avoid another financial crisis.

Section one of Trichet’s speech is entitled, “Why we need global governance,” and from then on he constantly invokes the economic downturn as a justification for empowering secretive, undemocratic and corrupt global institutions with the power to rule the world.

Highlights of Trichet’s speech can be viewed below via the official Council on Foreign Relations [You Tube channel](#).

[A full transcript of the speech](#) (pdf) was also carried by the Bank for International Settlements, an international organization of central banks that has constantly lobbied for a centralized global currency to replace that of nation states. Trichet praises the BIS as being “ahead of the curve” in dealing with the financial crisis during the speech.

The primary outfit that will boss the institutions of global governance, according to Trichet, is the Global Economy Meeting (GEM), which regularly meets at the BIS headquarters in Basel. This group, states Trichet, “has become the prime group for global governance among central banks”. The GEM is basically a policy steering committee under the umbrella of the Bank for International Settlements.

The BIS is a branch of the of the Bretton-Woods International Financial architecture and closely allied with the Bilderberg Group. It is controlled by an inner elite that represents all the world’s major central banking institutions. John Maynard Keynes, perhaps the most influential economist of all time, wanted it closed down as it was [used to launder money for the Nazis](#) during World War II.

[Financial website Investors Insight describe the BIS](#) as “the most powerful bank you’ve never heard of,” labeling it “the most powerful financial institution on earth”.

The bank wields power through its control of vast amounts of global currencies. The BIS controls no less than 7% of the world’s available foreign exchange funds, as well as owning 712 tons of gold bullion.

“By controlling foreign exchange currency, plus gold, the BIS can go a long way toward determining the economic conditions in any given country,” writes Doug Casey. “Remember that the next time Ben Bernanke or European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet announces an interest rate hike. You can bet it didn’t happen without the concurrence of the BIS Board.”

The BIS is basically a huge slush fund for global government through which secret transfers of wealth from citizens are surreptitiously handed to the IMF.

“For example, U.S. taxpayer monies can be passed through BIS to the IMF and from there anywhere. In essence, the BIS launders the money, since there is no specific accounting of where particular deposits came from and where they went,” writes Casey.

“The bank was a major player promoting the adoption of the euro as Europe’s common currency. There are rumors that its next project is persuading the U.S., Canada and Mexico to switch to a similar regional money, perhaps to be called the “amero,” and it’s logical to assume the bank’s ultimate goal is a single world currency. That would simplify transactions and really solidify the bank’s control of the planetary economy,” adds Casey.

The Bank of International Settlements is responsible to no national government whatsoever. Trichet’s acknowledgment that an offshoot of the corrupt BIS will boss the main engine of global government is a startling revelation, and emphasizes once again that world government is inherently undemocratic and dictatorial in nature.

The fact that Trichet unveiled this new approach in the march towards global governance before an audience of CFR insiders is fully appropriate.

The Council On Foreign Relations comprises of influential elitists and powerbrokers from all sectors of government, business, academia and the media. It is the public face of the more secretive Bilderberg Group. The CFR only recruits members sympathetic to [its agenda for global government](#) and the elimination of U.S. sovereignty.

The scope of the CFR’s mission was best encapsulated by former Deputy Secretary of State under Clinton and CFR luminary Strobe Talbott, who told Time Magazine in July 1992, “In the next century, nations as we know it will be obsolete; all states will recognize a single, global authority. National sovereignty wasn’t such a great idea after all.”

As we have emphasized, the global elite have already announced the birth of world government and who will run it. People expecting the UN to be at the helm have been distracted as the G20, alongside the BIS, was being empowered with the tools through which global governance is being coordinated.

In his speech, Trichet acknowledges the role of the G20 in using the financial crisis to mandate developing countries’ “full integration into the institutions of global governance.”

“The G20 has been effective in addressing the global crisis. We are now at the stage where this forum is making the transition from acting in a crisis resolution mode to contributing to crisis prevention,” said Trichet. In other words, the elite exploited the financial crisis in order to allow the G20 to pose as saviors and consequently empower itself to impose global governance regulations on nation states in the name of avoiding another economic crisis.

As EU President Herman Van Rompuy stated during his speech in Brussels, 2009 marked the first official year of world government powers being directly exercised to control the economies of nation states.

“2009 is also the first year of global governance, with the establishment of the G20 in the middle of the financial crisis. The climate conference in Copenhagen is another step towards the global management of our planet,” said Van Rompuy.

Paul Joseph Watson is a frequent contributor to Global Research.

Global Research [Articles](#) by Paul Joseph Watson

Global Research [home page](#)

InfoWars [home page](#)

Prison Planet [home page](#)

International Forecaster Weekly

A Financial Conflagration Of Immense Proportions

by Bob Chapman [article link](#)

Posted: May 1 2010

The International Forecaster [home page](#)

The Trillion-Dollar Fraud

Why is the Fed so opposed to being audited, and what does it have to hide?

BY JOHN R. TALBOTT [article link](#)

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2010

Salon [home page](#)

US States Consider Starting Their Own Banks

by: Matthew Cardinale [article link](#) [article link](#)

Friday 30 April 2010 | Inter Press Service

Inter Press Service [home page](#)

truthout [home page](#)

A New Deal for Local Economies

More local, durable economies are already taking root. We can help them along by changing the way we regulate businesses, plan cities, and finance the communities we want.

by Stacy Mitchell [article link](#) [article link](#)

Published on Sunday, May 2, 2010 by YES! Magazine

CommonDreams [home page](#)

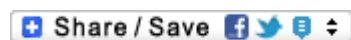
Making Money Work: How Can We Reconnect Capital with Community?

Our investments tend to fund consolidation and speculation. But new models are emerging that allow us to finance the economy we really want.

by Stacy Mitchell [article link](#)

Apr 23, 2010

YES! Magazine [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:35 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

David Michael Green: Suicide by Regressivism

Suicide by Regressivism

by David Michael Green [article link](#)

Published on Sunday, May 2, 2010 by CommonDreams.org

Sometimes bad things happen to countries, and people suffer.

Other times, people suffer because countries are stupid and bring bad things upon themselves.

No country in the history of the world has ever been as rich and powerful as the United States. Regrettably, few have demonstrated the level of stupidity we have and brought so much grief upon our own heads (not to mention treating so many other people in the world to an even worse fate).

To watch the Wall Street hearings in Congress this week is to witness this folly in full flower. To ask, "What two greater sets of organized criminals are there in America than Wall Street bankers and the United States Congress?" is actually to make the fundamental mistake of being too charitable. The question assumes that they are indeed distinguishable entities, when in fact this is arguably nonsense.

That distinction is actually quite critical, for our public sector has in many ways more or less ceased to exist in this country. And that in turn is critical for what it signifies, in addition to the very tangible effects felt every day.

What's at stake in the significance of a robust public sector, with supreme political authority, is nothing less than democracy at its most profound level. We tend to think of democracy primarily in terms of elections. Those of us who scratch the surface a little deeper might invoke associations to the concept of responsible government, and the notion of clearly assignable credit for policy successes and failures, along with the idea of legitimate voter choice which follows from that.

But foundational to both those important concepts is the assigned role for the government being chosen through this electoral process. It doesn't much matter if you have free and fair elections, with lots of distinct party choices to pick from, if the government you are electing is substantially limited in its capacities. You might as well get all excited about the Queen of England. You can do that if you want, but the reality is that she doesn't have any real political power anymore, so why bother?

Likewise, the stature of American government has much deteriorated in many key respects from where it stood a generation ago. Regressives have been so good at winning the ideological warfare of the last thirty years, whether on fronts overt or subtle, and this is just another example of the latter. By weakening the government, by undermining its status in the public mind, and by making it subservient to other actors on the political stage, incalculable damage has been done to American society. Just exactly as was intended.

One of the great regressive triumphs of our time has been to turn people against their own government. It's an astonishing victory – especially in a democracy where those same people have chosen that very government – and it comes against the long odds cast by the shadow of rationality.

But it has been a necessary ingredient for a plutocracy which has sought to achieve – and has achieved – the fundamental goal of radically redistributing wealth in America. The major impediments to such predation include government's presumptive power to tax, to regulate, to provide services, and to set the fundamental rules for the structural mechanics of economic life in a society. All of these had to be challenged to insure that a wealthy overclass could become fantastically more wealthy, and the easiest way to do that was to corrode the status and power of government itself. To choose a metaphor which is not entirely metaphorical, it's a lot harder to steal from you if you think you deserve to own what you have. If, on the other hand, you can be sold a diet of some lovely self-loathing, you're likely to be a lot more inclined to acquiesce in your own fleecing.

Teaching people to hate their own government is one way to divest them of it, and it has been crucial. At least as important, however, has been the process of wresting the beast right out of the hands of any remaining semblance of public control. So, first the Republican Party was completely coopted, then – courtesy of Bill Clinton and Barack Obama especially – the Democrats as well. Now both parties take enormous sums from Wall Street and any other corporate actor who realizes what a great return on investment is provided on the minimal pay-to-play entry fee of buying off a few members of Congress, through the medium of former members of Congress now cashing in as lobbyists. If this goes on much longer it will make the robber baron era of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century look as garish as Gandhi by comparison.

While taxes on the wealthy have been dramatically cut in the United States these last decades (with, of course, debt rising in equally fantastic proportion) the very notion of the legitimacy of taxation has been called into question to a ludicrous extent. It's as easy as it is immature to bitch about taxes, in the same way that a certain five year-old might decide that he should have all the cookies on the communal plate, and his playmates none. Some folks on the right may have some legitimate policy disputes about being forced through taxation to pay for programs they don't like (though I suspect nearly all of them are just looking to have more cookies). But, hey, guess what? Most everyone can readily find lots of stuff in the federal budget they'd rather not fund. As for me, I am appalled that something like one-half of the federal dollars skimmed off of my paycheck go to fund a massively bloated military-industrial-complex, for a country with no real enemy, in a process that represents little more than corporate welfare at its absolute worst. But I don't complain about the concept of taxes. It is, as Oliver Wendell Holmes pointed out, the price we pay for civilization. Sadly, in America, we pay

comparatively little in taxes. If you do the math on that, per Holmes' formulation, you quickly realize that we have purchased for ourselves a Walmart civilization, and not just figuratively, either.

Deregulatory fervor is another concept which fairly boggles the mind. Does it seem to you that Wall Street has been prevented by the government from being the best it can be lately? Were those poor hard-working bankers unable to earn an honest day's salary, even after we dismantled the regulatory framework we built after the 1930s, the last time this same nightmare went down? Do you think that American industry should be freer to pollute our waters, strip-mine our mountains, or build even bigger shit pools surrounding industrial-scale meat factories? Aren't zoning restrictions just an outrage, too? Why shouldn't that sulfur-processing plant be located right in your neighborhood? Why should the next generations get to enjoy the same temperate planet we all have grown up with, when that would mean profits for an already wealthy tiny minority might be slightly diminished? What's so bad about the Sahara, anyhow?

Then there's spending. Of all the developed countries in the world, the United States has always been the most absolutely miserly in taking care of its populace. Americans would be entirely amazed to learn what goes on in places like Germany or Sweden, how socially and personally beneficial such welfare state programs are, and how much security and, yes, freedom, comes from such initiatives. They might even realize what a raw deal they've given themselves, in exchange for the right to buy a bigger TV on their high-interest credit cards. But, of course, the only times in half a century that we've moved in the direction of enlarging the American welfare state – Bush's prescription drug bill and Obama's health care debacle – it's really been a lot more about enlarging corporate profits. Coupled with the Clinton/Gingrich meat cleaver approach to already minimal welfare assistance, it's a very sad record indeed. But, then, it's only lives that are at stake here.

While taxes and regulation and spending are the obvious manifestations of this public-versus-private dynamic, there is another more profound one as well, which has to do with the very structuring of society. We seem to have forgotten, all too often, that the former is meant to sanction the latter, and not the other way around. Corporations are, at least in theory, chartered by the state, for purposes of serving some sort of public good, and not otherwise. In practice, however, corporations have come to view the state as their sometime nemesis and oft-time resource collector. Regressives, however, in their supposed zeal for 'freedom', never stop reminding us of the need to leave the private sector unfettered to do what it wants. Funny, they don't seem so obsessed with freedom from state power when it comes to murder or robbery, or even abortion or gay marriage. What could be the rationale for letting corporate actors murder – and in some cases there is no other word for it – as a result of actions taken in a society free from government control? And, worst of all, for the lowest of reasons imaginable?: To generate big profits for little people.

At the root of all this is a society that has lost touch with the very meaning of the public sector. At the end of the day, and despite all the deviations of real-world practice, government is the forum in which the aspirations and interests of the people, as a people, are expressed. And that is why, despite the need to protect some substantial quantities of individual and even corporate freedoms, government must ultimately trump the power of private actors. We don't allow individuals the right to take the lives of others whenever they feel like it on the basis of their claims to freedom. Why do we contemplate extending these and analogous rights to corporate actors? Yes, of course, everyone should have maximal possible freedoms, but only after the needs of society and other individuals have been placed first.

At its core, the regressive project these last thirty years has sought to undermine that principle, rhetorically, legislatively and conceptually. Ronald Reagan was the embodiment of this initiative, and nothing spelled it out more clearly than his line that "Government is not the solution, government is the problem". What he was really saying was, "Greedy wealthy folks are not getting enough yet, so the rest of you need to have less and live shorter, shittier lives to rectify that unacceptable imbalance".

And so, precisely, it has been. The Great Recession of our time is only the most obvious manifestation of a thirty year process of wealth transfer from bottom to top. Even as the global economy crumbles and America groans under the burden of record-high unemployment rates, all remains quite lovely, thank you very much, for the nice folks in America's economic stratosphere. Record high bonuses on Wall Street and a rising Dow. Meanwhile, the distribution of wealth in this country is now as it was in Herbert Hoover's day, a scenario of which any banana republic could be proud.

And the notion of what to do about it is more farcical than ever. The only serious political energy in the country belongs to the tea party morons, and their media cheerleaders on Fox and, well, seemingly everywhere. And they are calling – wait for it now – for less government as a solution to the country's problems. It boggles the mind. Could an ideology ever have been more obviously shown to be catastrophic in its effects? And yet here we are arguing in public about doubling down on those policy ideas, while the two major political parties both pretend to be limiting the worst practices of the most predatory actors, as they simultaneously accept bags of money from the very same folks at the very same time.

I'm sorry, but this is embarrassing. I know enough about history that I don't entirely mind if my country has a bad century or two, or falls from the lofty heights of its great power status. Falling is what you're supposed to do when you're a great power and you've already done the whole rise thing. It's called gravity, and it's pretty inevitable.

But do we have to do it to ourselves?

And does it have to be the product of such rampant stupidity?

David Michael Green is a professor of political science at Hofstra University in New York. He is delighted to receive readers' reactions to his articles (mailto:dmg@regressiveantidote.net), but regrets that time constraints do not always allow him to respond. More of his work can be found at his website, www.regressiveantidote.net.

CommonDreams [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:32 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Saturday, May 1, 2010

[Unoriginal Sin: The Judeo-Christian Roots of Ecotheology](#)

Unoriginal Sin: The Judeo-Christian Roots of Ecotheology

The Heritage Foundation; Policy Review

1990 Summer; SECTION: No. 53; Pg. 52

BYLINE: Robert H. Nelson; the author of Modern Economic Theology [Rowman and Littlefield]

Many participants in environmental decision making have assumed that the goal of environmental policy is to reduce pollution, improve air and water quality, and achieve other environmental objectives in an efficient way. Yet, experience has shown that magnitudes of benefits, levels of costs, and other factors affecting efficiency often play little part in environmental policy-making. Decisions are instead frequently made as an act of symbolic affirmation, to make a statement for or against a particular set of values. Indeed, on close inspection, environmental policy-making often turns out to be a battlefield for religious conflict. Rather than rational policy analysis, the making of natural resource and environmental policy in the United States has become an exercise in theological controversy.

Many environmentalists today have no objection to the characterization of their outlook as a religion. They readily acknowledge a goal to change the values of society and that the values they seek to promote rest on what is fundamentally a religious underpinning. The leading historian, an energetic advocate as well, of American environmentalism, Roderick Nash, recently described environmental views as deriving from a set of "ecotheologians" who propound a new "gospel of ecology." There is in the "recent concern for nature" what Nash describes as a "quasi-religious fervor." Joseph Sax, in making the case for reducing the human presence in the national parks, states candidly that he and other preservationists are in truth "secular prophets, preaching a message of secular salvation."

Environmentalism is, to be sure, a diverse movement. Many people support environmental improvements for practical reasons that have nothing to do with environmental theology. They simply want clean air and water, parks for recreation, and protection of wildlife. Nor are all environmentalists skeptical of science or opposed to economic argument. For many

environmentalists, taking care of the environment is simply a matter of doing economics better. Factoring in all the benefits (including nonmarket benefits) and taking proper account of private actions that have impacts not accurately reflected in market profits and losses.

Yet, the growing importance of the theological element means that those who would engage environmentalists in constructive dialogue may find that they have no choice but to enter the realm of theological discussion. Increasingly, the environmental policy analyst must address matters not only of physical science, economics, and other conventional policy subjects, but of theology as well.

Greener Pastors

Modern discussions of environmental theology have been strongly influenced by a 1967 article in *Science* in which the historian Lynn White Jr. asserted that contemporary environmentalism required a sharp break from the Judeo-Christian heritage. Because the Bible teaches that the earth and its creatures are created to serve the purposes of mankind, according to White, "Christianity made it possible to exploit nature in a mood of indifference to the feelings of natural objects" [God ordained dominion not domination -MMr]. White believed the environmental crisis of the current age required "a new religion," perhaps inspired by the faiths of "ancient paganism and Asia's religions," in which humanity must be understood as part of and not distinct from nature. White also drew inspiration from some Christian teachers, particularly St. Francis of Assisi.

The messages of contemporary environmentalism are widely seen, by environmentalist supporters and critics alike, as a major step toward the fulfillment of White's prescription of the pantheistic veneration of nature. Yet, despite its wide influence, White's argument has served more to confuse than to illuminate the actual tenets of environmental theology. The laws of nature frequently are not the laws of an idyllic or pastoral world; they are the Darwinian laws of the jungle - "nature, red in tooth and claw," as Tennyson put it. Indeed, rather than becoming a part of nature as White asserted, the actual goal of environmentalism is the opposite: to inculcate a new morality with respect to the natural world that is found nowhere else in nature. No other creature is obligated to protect other species - as the Bible says that Noah was once commanded to do, and as the Endangered Species Act of 1973 again seeks to accomplish.

Environmental theology typically says little or nothing about God. It offers no answers concerning the hereafter; it is vague about the route of personal salvation; and in other respects it departs from basic tenets of the Judeo-Christian heritage. Yet, perhaps more remarkable is the extent to which environmentalism actually incorporates elements from the western religious heritage, indeed, the real source of the appeal of environmentalism may be that it offers traditional religious messages of the West in a new secular form - a form that, in an age of rampant secularism, lends these traditional messages great authority for large numbers of people.

Devil's Design

One source of modern environmental theology is the long, powerful tradition within Christianity that regards wealth and riches, sophisticated reasoning, the structures of the law - all the formal institutions of society and of the good life - as dangerous and corrupting influences. These instruments all too often serve, not the will of God, but the devious designs of the devil. Since the fall of man from the Garden of Eden, human weakness has rendered the products of human reason unreliable, often deluding man to false optimism and excessive confidence in his powers. The leading American Catholic theologian of the 20th century, John Courtney Murray, once labeled this tradition within Christianity as one of "contempt of the world" and found that it has seen "sin as a permanent human fact that casts a shadow over all human achievements." This tradition encourages asceticism (and had an important influence on a number of monastic orders), spurns the attempt to perfect an earthly existence, and suggests that man "should by right neglect what is called the cultural enterprise - the cultivation of science and the arts, the pursuit of human values by human energies, the work of civilization." This outlook often asserts that the world is about to be overcome by the forces of evil. But there can still be hope that "in that moment [of collapse] the light disperses the darkness."

Contemporary environmentalism shares a closely related outlook: a sense that modern civilization tempts man to evil and represents retrogression rather than progress; an apocalyptic foreboding concerning ecological catastrophe and the near-

term future of the earth; an attitude that human reason, as today embodied in science, offers false promises and alienates man from his true self; a view that a widespread sinfulness has infected the world (now seen in the "assaults" on and the "raping" of nature that meet popular indifference); a condemnation of the pervasive greed that motivates current evils (found especially in corporate "profiteers" who abuse nature); a view that urban and industrial civilization cuts men off from deeper and truer natural instincts; and a desire for a return to an earlier and more natural existence - the existence of the earth long ago - in which the products of modern science and economics would be banished. The deliverers of such environmental messages today issue a new call for men to renounce their evil ways and to live in simple harmony with their true natures and with the divine order that governs the universe - much as Christianity has preached repentance and deliverance from sin, and obedience to God.

Unheavenly City

This belief in the alienation of man from his true nature existed in the western tradition even before the advent of Christianity. For Plato, the undermining and corrupting power of greed and other economic influences, destroying the virtues of the citizenry, explained the decline of man. In the latter part of the ancient Roman empire, Augustine brought together the Platonic tradition and Christian theology. For Augustine, life on earth offered an existence of sin and depravity, characterized by "the love of self" and the pursuit of self-interest, as exemplified by the corruption and debauchery of ancient Rome.

In the history of western religion, Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation represent the next great statement of such a theology. Owing to the fall of man, reason is subverted; government, the law, and other institutional products of man's rational faculty will reflect the corrupted nature of man, exemplified for Luther by the Catholic Church. Reunion with man's true nature is not to be achieved in this world, but is possible only in a heavenly future. Luther also continued the Platonic and Augustinian tradition of seeing economic competition and the pursuit of self-interest as forces of darkness.

In some ways, Marxism is a secular variation of the tradition of Plato, Augustine, and Luther. Its fundamental thesis is the growing alienation through history of mankind from his true nature. In a new rendition of the fall of man, Marx argued that the forces of technological advance and economic growth created surplus production, causing the outbreak of class warfare to gain control over the resulting surpluses and thus yielding the alienation of man from himself. The Marxist concept of alienation was derived, as the political scientist Isaiah Berlin commented, from what "Rousseau and Luther and an earlier Christian tradition called the perpetual self-divorce of men from unity with nature, with each other, with God." Yet, Marx promised that there would soon be a day when the millennium arrives - the laws of economic history have predestined with ironclad certainty that the impending culmination of class struggle will open the way to a future in which earth becomes heaven.

Deep Ecology

The ideas of "deep ecology," which derive from this theological emphasis on the fall of man, are not widely known to the American public but are exercising a significant and growing (if often unacknowledged) influence even within the mainstream environmental movement. In their book "Deep Ecology", Bill Devall and George Sessions offer a familiar portrayal of the fall of man. The story of history as one of decline from an earlier existence in true harmony with nature. In their version of the story, "technological society not only alienates humans from the rest of nature but also alienates humans from themselves and from each other." Human pride and an excess of confidence in human reason, now exalted as scientific reason, have led to the fall of man. Devall and Sessions thus preach that deep ecology challenges "not only the growth addict and the chronic developer, but science itself."

As a secular faith, the tenets of deep ecology are closest to the Marxist analysis. Dave Foreman is the founder of Earth First, a self-described "radical environmental" organization that has received wide media attention in recent years for engaging in "monkey wrenching" (sabotaging heavy machinery and other acts of destroying instruments of development). If Marx once believed that the class struggle for surplus production had yielded the alienation of mankind from a truer nature, Foreman now contends that "human destruction of the wild" is the "keystone to understanding our alienation from nature, which is the central problem of Civilization." Foreman follows Marx in locating the fall of man in history; in this case, it is the arrival of agriculture and an organized society.

If advancing technological capacity for Marx first made surplus production possible, and thereby yielded the class struggle, Foreman now finds that it was the "nascency of agriculture" about 10,000 years ago that first left man "apart from the natural world" and yielded the evils of "city, bureaucracy, patriarchy, war, and empire." Where Marx saw history as revealing an ever deeper corruption and degradation, Foreman now finds history to be the story of "an ever widening rift" that opened "between the wilderness that created us and the civilization created by us." In the gospel of Foreman, if it was the wilderness that created man, man has now rebelled against his primitive naturalness and fallen into sin. One can hardly fail to note the environmental retelling in secular form of the Genesis story. The creation in the Garden of Eden and the original sin of Adam and Eve (the pursuit of knowledge) causing mankind to be cast out into sin and iniquity.

In his recent, much-noted book, "The End of Nature", William McKibben writes of a severe "crisis of belief" in the current era but asserts that "many people, including me, have overcome it to a greater or lesser degree by locating God in nature." When Europeans first arrived in North America, McKibben writes, they found a "wilderness" that was a "blooming, humming, fertile paradise," very much like the biblical version - but by destroying God are instead "making ourselves gods." If they succeed, if nature, or God, no longer exists, there would be no "hope for a living, eternal, meaningful world." In essence, "nature" becomes for McKibben a substitute for the Christian God. If Friedrich Nietzsche a century earlier warned of dire consequences of the death of God, the end of nature today for McKibben and for many others of environmental faith would have much the same meaning.

Because there is a long tradition in America of separating church and state, and for tactical and other reasons, spokesman for the contending theological viewpoints often leave the religious elements implicit. As a society, we often mask basic value disagreements by dressing them up in the formal rhetoric of rational discourse. Yet, theological terms and a recognition of an underlying religious content have been creeping into policy discussions with growing frequency. Although leaders of environmental groups are often guarded in their public statements, funding solicitations of these groups are often much more revealing of the fundamental values and convictions of their membership. A few selections from recent solicitation letters of leading environmental organizations are offered below to illustrate the prominent role that themes and images from our western religious heritage play in the appeals of these groups.

Natural Resources Defense Council: Imagine a spectacular bay [in Alaska] that is home to the greatest concentration of marine life in North America - with more fish, birds, whales, seals, and otters than inhabit any other single place - more wildlife refuges and critical habitat areas than any other region on the continent. Now picture that the world's oil giants - Shell, Mobil and others - propose drilling for oil and gas in this national environmental treasure, at the invitation of the United States government. Opening up Bristol Bay to oil and gas drilling is akin to opening up Yosemite and Yellowstone National Parks to oil giants. I believe we can save Bristol Bay if I can convince you to help us.

One meaning of "save" is to preserve, but another is to curb the influence of evil. Today, urgent new calls are being issued to save innocent environments and helpless wildlife from the ravages of human exploitation and sinfulness. In this case, nature must be saved from "oil giants," who provide an especially powerful symbol of the growing alienation from nature resulting from modern technology and the forces of economic development. It is the ability to tap oil, generate electricity, and utilize other energy supplies that has given mankind a new and enormous power to reduce nature to submission for human purposes. The oil companies use drilling equipment and other intrusive technologies that can be seen as almost literally raping the virgin earth. Oil companies are large and impersonal corporations, motivated by the pursuit of profit and indifferent to the assaults on nature that their own activities bring about. In short, if the power of greed has long tempted Christians to sin, and if in Marxism surplus production moved one class to enslave another, now in our own time the need for energy to maintain the luxuries of modern living compels man to still further depravity, the violation once again of the innocence of nature.

The Wilderness Society: We need to protect our wilderness areas from being bulldozed, stripmined, denuded, and drilled. Destroy them and we destroy our spirit. Destroy them and we destroy our sense of values. Destroy them and we deprive future generations of their greatest heritage. Destroy them and we upset a critical balance of nature, an upset that will have long-range adverse effects on our health and quality of life. Wilderness and the environment have become today's scapegoat, sacrificed on the altar of economic expediency.

To preserve a wilderness is to maintain a place where humanity can experience nature in the absence of human intrusion. Wilderness "cathedrals" some have called these places. A wilderness, like a church, is a small enclave where the alienation, otherwise so pervasive in modern life, has been challenged. If the church historically sought to teach and to minister the restoration of man's sinless nature, as it was once found in an earthly paradise in the Garden of Eden, an environmentalist's return to nature now seeks a physical environment where the signs of human misdeeds are missing. A place, as the Wilderness Act of 1964 states, that is "untrammeled by man." If reunion with nature for many in the current age has assumed the traditional meaning of reunion with God, a wilderness is a place for communing with and being at one with the divinity.

Sierra Club: The progressive loss of the ozone shield will result in millions of new cases of skin cancer. In addition, increases in ultraviolet (UV) light will cause massive losses in the productivity of the oceans because, as one scientist put it, "we simply fry the plankton in UV." An increase in global temperatures is resulting from the over-use of fossil fuels and from massive deforestation. Also, rainfall patterns will shift, resulting in devastation of the world's food crops. Finally, the sea may rise, flooding much of the world's coastal plain. Citizens are going to have to be fully educated about the threat to global climate and then called to action.

In the Bible, the wicked can expect to incur the wrath of God. Drought and pestilence will be the lot of those who disobey, as in the time of Noah a flood encompassed the entire earth. Now, as the Sierra Club warns, massive flooding again threatens. Global climate change raises the prospect of widespread "devastation" of agriculture. Other catastrophes and disasters loom as well, which may arrive at any moment. Yet, these punishments for human attacks on and indifference to nature can be avoided. Men must be "called" to a new crusade on which the very future of the earth may depend. They must be educated in the truths of the natural world in order that they may reform their wicked ways. Otherwise, if the separation of man from nature continues to widen, there will be an ultimate and unforgiving reckoning.

Environmental Unitarians: The environmentalism of these solicitations and of deep ecologists such as Dave Foreman is of a fire-and-brimstone sort, harking back to Calvin and other Protestant reformers who saw a depraved world filled with sinners bent on their own destruction. But environmentalism also has its optimists, who have greater faith in human reason and in the benevolent impulses of mankind. These "Unitarians" of the environmental movement envision a happier future for humanity. Indeed, a wide range of practical and theological considerations can be found among those who have enlisted in the environmental cause.

In a recent analysis of "the meaning of wilderness," the chairman of the Sierra Club, Michael McCloskey, identifies 24 reasons to support the creation of wilderness areas. The reasons were classified into four main categories: biocentric; anthropocentric but not utilitarian; anthropocentric and utilitarian; and, least valid, commercial. The utilitarian reasons included "watershed function," "education," "science and research," "therapy," and "recreation." Wilderness areas in the United States can be seen as a museum of the geological and biological past, especially important to a nation that otherwise lacks a lengthy history to record. But McCloskey concludes that the core justification for creating wilderness areas is that they provide "beacons of hope for all those whose lives are oppressed by lines of traffic, layers of smog, piles of trash, and the menace of toxins. At last, perhaps, we can understand what Thoreau meant when he said: in wildness is the preservation of the world."

Is Man Part of Nature?

Despite drawing heavily on the Judeo-Christian tradition, environmental theology also contains major new theological elements. In the western religious tradition to return to an original state of nature has been to return to the sinless condition of mankind in the Garden of Eden, or for many secular theologies of the modern age, to some primitive tribal existence. Current environmental theologians, however, now have available to them the fairly recent scientific knowledge that for all but a very limited recent span, nature did not include human beings. To return to the original nature of creation thus might now be interpreted to mean a return to a state of nature that preceded human influence.

This theological logic is today exhibited in the formal criteria for designation of wilderness areas, where it is precisely the absence of signs of human presence that must be documented. Following a similar logic, the National Park Service maintains a policy to avoid interfering with nature and to seek to return to original natural conditions preceding human

influence (thus, man-made fires are fought but "natural" fires are allowed to burn). The government goes to great lengths to regulate very small quantities of man-made pesticides, but sees little problem in the widespread presence of dangerous pesticides that are created naturally by plants and vegetables. Global warming due to natural causes would be a cause for concern, but would no doubt stimulate much less public alarm than warming due to a buildup of gases caused by human activities. In each case the violation of nature is the basic concern, not the risk or other impact on human well-being.

The AIDS of the Earth: Environmental theology faces a dilemma that could prove insuperable: how can mankind find harmony with and return to an original state of nature when the very presence of man may now be seen as foreign to original nature? One theoretical answer would be the disappearance of mankind. Many environmental proponents seeking to limit the violation of nature support a sharply reduced human population on earth. A former leader of Greenpeace, Paul Watson, recently commented that "our species [is] the AIDS of the Earth: we are rapidly eroding the immune system of the Earth, destroying [her] ability to cleanse herself." If so, perhaps the proper fate of humanity might even be the same that medical research today seeks for AIDS.

Such theological logic was actually carried to this extreme by the author of a proposal - hopefully offered somewhat tongue-in-cheek - that appeared a while ago in a radical environmental publication: "only a very few of human pathogens are shared by other partners on our planet - biological warfare will have no impact on other creatures, big or small, if we design it carefully." Although few if any environmentalists would so advocate, in some fringe groups serious proposals are being made to exclude signs of human presence from as much as one-third of the land area of the earth.

Some environmentalists have avoided this theological difficulty by arguing that man should be seen not as foreign to but as an inherent part of nature, no different in any fundamental way from the plants, animals, and perhaps even inanimate objects of the natural world. A faith of an animistic or pantheistic character would result: worshipping nature and seeking a unification of man with the divine element to be found directly and literally in the natural world. However, these environmentalists face a theological problem of equal severity. If the lion is not to be condemned morally for wanton acts of cruelty against other creatures, why, then, should mankind be judged harshly for making practical use of the natural world? This brand of environmental theology ends up in a virtual self-contradiction: men are to look to the current natural world for their values and spiritual sustenance, yet are instructed to behave and are to be judged by a standard found nowhere else in nature.

Law of Nature and of Nature's God

Lynn White's influential argument that only a new and non-western religion could protect the environment has diverted attention from a more promising theological direction for the environmental movement. Few would dispute that there are new threats to the world ecology; that there are growing numbers of people, creating increased demands on natural resources; and that quality of life becomes a greater concern as other basic human needs are met. These factors and others suggest the necessity of taking active steps to maintain and improve environmental quality. Yet, it does not follow that a brand-new theology is needed to justify such efforts. Indeed, perhaps reinterpreted a bit to take account of improved ecological knowledge and other changing circumstances, the messages of the Judeo-Christian tradition not only offer ample scope for environmentalism but firmer grounds for the development of an environmental ethic and a theology of environmental protection.

While deep ecology and other branches of environmental theology have borrowed from the ascetic tradition of Christianity, there are other theological outlooks of equal importance. Besides the tradition of "contempt of the world," John Courtney Murray labeled a second and much different central tradition of Christianity as one of "affirmation of the worldly." There is no need to reject the current social order and its values, but man should set about "building himself a world" through the historical processes already at work. Although this theological tradition recognizes man's sinful nature, it sees history as not the story of a fall into ever greater sin and evil, but potentially of the progressive realization of "the life of reason" with the help of God.

Such a worldly and rationalist outlook reached a high point in Christianity in the theology of Thomas Aquinas. If Martin Luther saw rational argument as often subversive of strong faith, for Aquinas a life of reason brought man closer to God. Much of Christian theology over the centuries has been grounded in a natural law tradition that finds in reason the means to discover the divine intent for this world.



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:43 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Lew Rockwell: The Enviro-Skeptic's Manifesto

The Enviro-Skeptic's Manifesto

by Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr. [article link](#)

May 1, 2010

The New Socialism

Leftist journalist Alexander Cockburn has gone from attacking Gorbachev (for selling out Brezhnev) to defending Mother Earth. His new book, [The Fate of the Forests](#), is both statist and pantheist.

Cockburn, a man who supposedly cares about peasants and workers, instead decries their cutting down the Brazilian rainforests to farm and ranch. People are supposed to live in indentured mildewtude so no tree is touched.

But Cockburn is part of a trend. All over Europe and the U.S., Marxists are joining the environmental movement. And no wonder: environmentalism is also a coercive utopianism – one as impossible to achieve as socialism, and just as destructive in the attempt.

A century ago, socialism had won. Marx might be dead, and Lenin still a frustrated scribbler, but their doctrine was victorious, for it controlled something more important than governments: it held the moral high ground.

Socialism was, they said, the brotherhood of man in economic form. Thus was the way smoothed to the gulag.

Today we face an ideology every bit as pitiless and messianic as Marxism. And like socialism a hundred years ago, it holds the moral high ground. Not as the brotherhood of man, since we live in post-Christian times, but as the brotherhood of bugs. Like socialism, environmentalism combines an atheistic religion with virulent statism. But it ups the ante. Marxism at least professed a concern with human beings; environmentalism harks back to a godless, manless, and mindless Garden of Eden.

If these people were merely wacky cultists, who bought acres of wilderness and lived on it as primitives, we would not be threatened. But they seek to use the state, and even a world state, to achieve their vision.

And like Marx and Lenin, they are heirs to Jean Jacques Rousseau. His paeans to statism, egalitarianism, and totalitarian democracy have shaped the Left for 200 years, and as a nature worshipper and exalter of the primitive, he was also the father of environmentalism.

During the Reign of Terror, Rousseauians constituted what Isabel Paterson called "humanitarians with the guillotine." We face something worse: plantitarians with the pistol.

The Old Religion

Feminist-theologian Merlin Stone, author of [When God Was a Woman](#), exults: "The Goddess is back!" The "voice of Gaia is heard once again" through a revived "faith in Nature."

Gaia was an earth goddess worshipped by the ancient Greeks, and James Lovelock, a British scientist, revived the name in the mid-1970s for "the earth as a living organism," an almost conscious self-regulating "biosphere."

There is no Bible or "set theology" for Gaia worship, says the Rev. Stone, now making a national tour of Unitarian churches. You can "know Her simply by taking a walk in the woods or wandering on the beach." All of Nature forms her scriptures.

"Industrial civilization is acne on the face of Gaia," says Stone, and it's time to get out the Stridex.

Ancient pagans saw gods in the wilderness, animals, and the state. Modern environmentalism shares that belief, and adds – courtesy of a New Age-Hindu-California influence – a hatred of man and the Western religious tradition that places him at the center of creation.

Environmentalism also has roots in deism – the practical atheism of the Enlightenment – which denied the Incarnation and made obeisance to nature.

Early environmentalist John Burroughs wrote: we use the word "Nature very much as our fathers used the word God." It is in Nature's lap that "the universe is held and nourished."

The natural order is superior to mankind, wrote ecologist John Muir more than a century ago, because Nature is "unfallen and undepraved" and man always and everywhere "a blighting touch." Therefore, said the human-hating Muir, alligators and other predators should be "blessed now and then with a mouthful of terror-stricken man by way of a dainty."

Christianity, adds ecologist Lynn White, Jr., "bears an immense burden of guilt" for violating nature. It brought evil into the world by giving birth to capitalism and the Industrial Revolution.

Since we must think of nature as God, says William McKibben, author of the best selling [End of Nature](#), every "man-made phenomenon" is evil. We must keep the earth as "Nature intended." To punish man's desecration, ecologist Edward Abbey urged anti-human terrorism in his influential novel, [The Monkey-Wrench Gang](#). And the fastest-growing group in the Gaia liberation movement, EarthFirst!, uses a monkey wrench for its symbol.

Founded by David Foreman, former head lobbyist for the Wilderness Society, EarthFirst! engages in "ecodefense" and "ecotage," from spiking trees (which maims loggers) to vandalizing road-building machinery to wrecking rural airstrips. One of its goals is cutting the world's population by 90%, and it has even hailed AIDS as a help.

Foreman is in prison awaiting trial for trying to blow up the pylons that carry high-power wires (using, I'm sure, environmentally safe explosives), but his example is powerful, even among the alleged non-radicals. One of the mainstream environmentalists, David Brower – former head of the Sierra Club and founder of Friends of the Earth – urged that land developers be shot with tranquilizer guns. He agrees with McKibben: human suffering is much less important than the "suffering of the planet."

We must be "humbler" towards nature and use technology like "bicycle-powered pumps," says McKibben – who lives on an expensive Adirondack farm. But he wants the rest of us "crammed into a few huge cities like so many ants" because it's best for the planet. We shouldn't even have children, for "independent, eternal, ever-sweet Nature" must be disturbed as little as possible.

McKibben does admit to one sin: he owns a 1981 Honda. But a man who lives a properly ascetic life is "Ponderosa Pine."

A life-long leftist, Pine – whose real name is Keith Lampe – was an apparatchik of the black-power Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (which didn't have many students or much non-violence) and a founder of the Yippie Party. He rioted at the 1968 Democratic Convention and has been arrested nine times for civil disobedience.

Converted by Allan Ginsberg to environmentalism, Pine split with his wife and twin sons. She had complained about his "Tibetan vocal energy science" – a continuous, hour-long, top-of-the-lungs shout each morning as an act of "communion with Mother Earth."

With his civil disobedience campaign against logging, and environmental news service, newspaper columns, and newsletter (he refers to paper, in other contexts, as "dead tree flesh"), Pine has been extremely influential, though there is some dissent about his demand that we go barefoot to be in "more intimate touch with the earth." David Brower goes further, denouncing the Pinian nom de terre; did he, Brower asks angrily, have "permission from the Ponderosa Pines to use their name"?

But even Brower agrees with the knotty Pine's crusade to collectivize the U.S., return us to a primitive standard of living, and use the Department of Defense to do it. "I want to change the military's whole focus to environmentalism," says Pine.

In the meantime, however, it is possible to do something good for the earth as your last act. A recent issue of EarthFirst! Journal, notes Washington Times columnist John Elvin, had some advice for the lifelorn. "Are you terminally ill with a wasting disease?" asks the journal. "Don't go out with a whimper; go out with a bang! Undertake an eco-kamikaze mission."

"The possibilities for terminally ill warriors are limitless. Dams from the Columbia and the Colorado to the Connecticut are crying to be blown to smithereens, as are industrial polluters, the headquarters of oil-spilling corporations, fur warehouses, paper mills

"To those feeling suicidal, this may be the answer to your dreams.... Don't jump off a bridge, blow up a bridge. Who says you can't take it with you?"

Nature Without Illusions

Ron James, an English Green leader, says the proper level of economic development is that "between the fall of Rome and the rise of Charlemagne."

"The only way to live in harmony with Nature is by living at a subsistence level," as the animals do.

The normal attitude for most of human history was expressed by the Pilgrims, who feared a "hideous and desolate wilderness, full of wild beasts and wild men." Only a free society, which has tamed nature over many generations, enables us to have a different view.

"To us who live beneath a temperate sky and in the age of Henry Ford," wrote Aldous Huxley, "the worship of Nature comes almost naturally." But "an enemy with whom one is still at war, an unconquered, unconquerable, ceaselessly active enemy" – "one respects him, perhaps; one has a salutary fear of him; and one goes on fighting."

Added Albert J. Nock, "I can see nature only as an enemy: a highly respected enemy, but an enemy."

Few of us could survive in the wilderness of, say, Yellowstone Park for any length of time (even though the environmentalists let it burn down because fire is natural). Nature is not friendly to man; it must be tempered.

Environmental Hysteria

Because they know that the vast majority of Americans would reject their real agenda, the environmentalists use lies, exaggerations, and pseudo-science to create public hysteria.

EXXON: The environmental movement is cheering the criminal indictment of the Exxon Corporation for the Alaska oil spill, with the possibility of more than \$700 million in fines. The one shortcoming, say the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council, is that Exxon executives won't be sent to prison.

Exxon cannot be allowed to get away with an "environmental crime" which despoiled the "pristine wilderness of Alaska," says Attorney General Richard Thornburgh. But the legal doctrine underlying this indictment is inconsistent with a free society, notes Murray N. Rothbard.

Under feudalism, the master was held responsible for all acts of his servants, intended or not. During the Renaissance with growing capitalism and freedom, the doctrine changed so there was no "vicarious liability." Employers were correctly seen as legally responsible only for those actions they directed their employees to take, not when their employees disobeyed them. But today, we are back in feudal times, plus deeper-pocket jurisprudence, as employers are held responsible for all acts of their employees, even when the employees break company rules and disobey specific orders – by getting drunk on duty, for example. From all the hysteria, and the criminal indictment, one might think Exxon had deliberately spilled the oil, rather than being the victim of an accident that has already cost its stockholders \$2 billion. Who is supposedly the casualty in the Justice Department's "criminal" act? Oiled sand?

In fact, Exxon is the biggest victim. Through employee negligence, the company has lost \$5 million worth of oil, a supertanker, and compensation to fishermen, or the cost of the clean up. The total bill could be \$3 billion.

Yet every night on television, we were treated to maudlin coverage of oily water and blackened seagulls, and denunciations of Exxon and oil production in "environmentally sensitive" Alaska. Though why it is more sensitive than, say, New Jersey, we are never told. In fact, environmentalists love Alaska because there are so few people there. It represents their ideal.

Despite all the hysteria, oil is – if I may use the environmentalists' own lingo – natural, organic, and biodegradable. As in previous oil spills, it all went away, and the birds, plants, and fish replenished themselves.

The Exxon oil spill was hardly the "equivalent of Hiroshima," as one crazed Alaska judge said. And who knows? Oil might be good for some wildlife. This year, the salmon catch is almost 50% bigger than any time in history.

WETLANDS: One of the great engineering achievements of the ancient world was draining the Pontine Marshes, which enabled the city of Rome to expand. But no such project could be undertaken today; that vast swamp would be protected as wetlands.

When John Pozsgai – an emigrant from communist Hungary – tried to improve some property he found this out. After buying a former junkyard and clearing away the thousands of tires that littered it, Pozsgai put clean topsoil on his lot in Morrisville, PA. For this, the 57-year-old mechanic was sentenced to three years in prison and \$200,000 in fines, because his property was classified as wetlands by the federal government.

After ordering a bureaucrat to "get the Hell off my property," Pozsgai was arrested, handcuffed, and jailed on \$10,000 bail. Quickly tried and convicted, Pozsgai's brutal sentence will – said the prosecutor – "send a message to the private landowners, corporations, and developers of this country about President Bush's wetlands policy."

John Pozsgai has a different view: "I thought this was a free country," he told The Washington Post.

RUBBISH: In Palo Alto, California, citizens are ordered to separate their trash into seven neatly packaged piles: newspapers, tin cans (flattened with labels removed), aluminum cans (flattened), glass bottles (with labels removed), plastic soda pop bottles, lawn sweepings, and regular rubbish. And to pay high taxes to have it all taken away.

In Mountain Park, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta, the government has just ordered the same recycling program, increased taxes 53% to pay for it, and enacted fines of up to \$1,000, and jail terms of up to six months, for scofftrashes.

Because of my aversion to government orders, my distrust of government justifications, and my dislike of ecomania, I have always mixed all my trash together. If recycling made sense – economically and not as a sacrament of Gaia worship – we would be paid to do it.

For the same reason, I love to use plastic fast-food containers and non-returnable bottles. The whole recycling commotion, like the broader environmental movement, has always impressed me as malarkey. But I was glad to get some scientific support for my position.

Professor William L. Rathje, an urban archaeologist at the University of Arizona and head of its Garbage Project, has been studying rubbish for almost 20 years, and what he's discovered contradicts almost everything we're told.

When seen in perspective, our garbage problems are no worse than they have always been. The only difference is that today we have safe methods to deal with them, if the environmentalists will let us.

The environmentalists warn of a country covered by garbage because the average American generates 8 lbs. a day. In fact, we create less than 3 lbs. each, which is a good deal less than people in Mexico City today or American 100 years ago. Gone, for example, are the 1,200 lbs. of coal ash each American home used to generate, and our modern packaged foods mean less rubbish, not more.

But most landfills will be full in ten years or less, we're told, and that's true. But most landfills are designed to last ten years. The problem is not that they are filling up, but that we're not allowed to create new ones, thanks to the environmental movement. Texas, for example, handed out 250 landfill permits a year in the mid-1970s, but fewer than 50 in 1988.

The environmentalists claim that disposable diapers and fast-food containers are the worst problems. To me, this has always revealed the anti-family and pro-elite biases common to all left-wing movements. But the left, as usual, has the facts wrong as well.

In two years of digging in seven landfills all across America, in which they sorted and weighed every item in 16,000 lbs. of garbage, Rathje discovered that fast-food containers take up less than 1/10th of one percent of the space; less than 1 % was disposable diapers. All plastics totalled less than 5%. The real culprit is paper – especially telephone books and newspapers. And there is little biodegradation. He found 1952 newspapers still fresh and readable.

Rather than biodegrade, most garbage mummifies. And this may be a blessing. If newspapers, for example, degraded rapidly, tons of ink would leach into the groundwater. And we should be glad that plastic doesn't biodegrade. Being inert, it doesn't introduce toxic chemicals into the environment.

We're told we have a moral obligation to recycle, and most of us say we do so, but empirical studies show it isn't so. In surveys, 78% of the respondents say they separate their garbage, but only 26% said they thought their neighbors separate theirs. To test that, for seven years the Garbage Project examined 9,000 loads of refuse in Tucson, Arizona, from a variety of neighborhoods. The results: most people do what they say their neighbors do – they don't separate. No matter how high or low the income, or how liberal the neighborhood, or how much the respondents said they cared about the environment, only 26% actually separated their trash. The only reliable predictor of when people separate and when they don't is exactly the one an economist would predict: the price paid for the trash. When the prices of old newspaper rose, people carefully separated their newspapers. When the price of newspapers fell, people threw them out with the other garbage.

We're all told to save our newspapers for recycling, and the idea seems to make sense. Old newspapers can be made into boxes, wallboard, and insulation, but the market is flooded with newsprint thanks to government programs. In New Jersey, for example, the price of used newspapers has plummeted from \$40 a ton to minus \$25 a ton. Trash entrepreneurs used to buy old newspaper. Now you have to pay someone to take it away.

If it is economically efficient to recycle – and we can't know that so long as government is involved – trash will have a market price. It is only through a free price system, as Ludwig von Mises demonstrated 70 years ago, that we can know the value of goods and services.

The cave men had garbage problems, and so will our progeny, probably for as long as human civilization exists. But government is no answer. A socialized garbage system works no better than the Bulgarian economy. Only the free market

will solve the garbage problem, and that means abolishing not only socialism, but the somewhat more efficient municipal fascist systems where one politically favored contractor gets the job.

The answer is to privatize and deregulate everything, from trash pickup to landfills. That way, everyone pays an appropriate part of the costs. Some types of trash would be taken away for a fee, others would be picked up free, and still others might command a price. Recycling would be based on economic calculation, not bureaucratic fiat.

The choice is always the same: put consumers in charge through private property and a free price system, or create a fiasco through government. Under the right kind of system, even I might start separating my trash.

MCDONALDS: I've always admired McDonald's. It put restaurant dining within the reach of the average American, and made cross-country travel less of a culinary roulette. But these days, the gold on those arches is looking a little bit green.

For 15 years, McDonald's put its hamburgers in styrofoam boxes, and no wonder. The containers kept the food hot, clean, and dry, and the foam even absorbed grease.

Styrofoam was a wonderful invention, as anyone who's ever held a paper cup of hot coffee can testify. Light, strong, cheap, and insulating, styrofoam was a consumer godsend. So naturally, the environmentalists – whose declared enemy is the consumer society – despised it.

The Environmental Defense Fund persuaded McDonald's to ban styrofoam as "bad for the environment." By this, they do not mean the customers' environment, since paper leaves a hamburger cold and soggy much more quickly than styrofoam.

The environmentalists say that styrofoam doesn't biodegrade. But so what? Rocks don't biodegrade either. Why should we mind styrofoam buried under our feet as versus rocks? Because styrofoam is manmade, and therefore evil, whereas rocks are natural, and therefore good.

Non-ecological factors may be at work, however. Edward H. Rensi, president of McDonald's U.S.A., said the company can "switch to paper and save money." And if the customers don't like it? What are you, a spotted owl murderer?

But McDonald's may not be getting off so easily. The Audubon Society criticizes the deal, saying that "a lot more paper means a lot more pollution."

I guess the environmentalists won't be satisfied until McDonald's slaps the burger directly onto our outstretched hand. If it is a burger. An agreement with the animal rights movement may be next. Anyone for a McTofu?

Portland, Oregon – in a move that other cities are studying – has hired ex-New York bureaucrat Lee Barrett as a "styrofoam cop." Since January 1990, no restaurant or other retail food seller in Portland has been able to use products made of the wonderful insulating foam. It is Barrett's job to swoop down on businesses to make sure they are not styro-criminals. If they are, he can levy \$250 fines for the dread offense – with \$500 for hardened offenders.

ALAR: Just before the publication of a National Research Council study extolling fresh fruits and vegetables (why do government scientists get paid to repeat what our mothers told us?), and pooh-poohing the trivial pesticide residues on them, the environmentalists arranged an ambush.

A PR man for the Natural Resources Defense Council was featured on 60 Minutes, points out syndicated columnist Warren Brookes, and Ed Bradley denounced Alar as the "most potent carcinogen in our food supply." This was disinformation.

Alar – used safely since 1963 – helps ripen apples, keeps them crisper, and retards spoilage. Using an EPA-mandated dosage 22,000 times the maximum intake of even an apple-crazy human, one rat out of the thousands tested developed a tumor. This was the extent of the "scientific proof" used not only to harm the manufacturer, Uniroyal, which had to pull Alar off the market, but the entire U.S. apple industry.

A saner voice – Dr. Sanford Miller, dean of the medical school at the University of Texas at San Antonio – noted that "the risk of pesticide residues to consumers is effectively zero." But apple sales dropped, and apple growers lost more than \$250 million, with many driven into bankruptcy.

Says Dr. Miller: 99.9% of the pesticide carcinogens now eaten by humans are natural. And as man-made pesticides and fungicides are banned, we are endangered. "Fungi produce the most potent carcinogens in nature."

RATS: The attack on Alar was based on rodent testing. And many other helpful products have been forced off the market, and companies and consumers harmed, through such panics. And now it turns out, as many of us have long thought, that such tests are defective.

Two recent articles in the journal Science – by Bruce Ames of the University of California, Berkeley, and Samuel Cohen of the University of Nebraska Medical College – have shown that it is the massive dose itself, no matter what the substance, that causes tumors.

The hyper dosages, explain these scientists, kill cells in the test animals, which their bodies then replace. The more this takes place over the animal's lifetime, the greater the chance of a cell mutation leading to cancer.

As with Alar, take thousands of rats and fill them full of a chemical for their whole lives, and it can be no surprise when one develops a tumor. This shows us that no one should try to live on Alar, but it tells us nothing about an infinitesimal residue, so small as to be barely measurable, of this helpful chemical.

GREENHOUSE: On the first Earth Day in 1970, environmentalists warned that we faced a new ice age unless the government took immediate and massive action. Today, using much of the same data, they claim we are endangered by global warming. These are the same climatologists who can't tell us whether it will rain next Friday, but who are certain that the earth's temperature will be x degrees Celsius higher in 2,011 than today. Increased levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will melt the polar icecaps and coastal areas will flood, we're told. As temperatures increase, Dallas will become a desert and Baked Alaska more than a dessert.

The proposed solution to this "Greenhouse Effect" is, surprise!, more government spending and control, and lower human standards of living. President Bush's new budget has \$375 million for greenhouse research.

Yet the "net rise in world surface temperature during the last century is about one degree Fahrenheit," nearly all of it before 1940, notes syndicated columnist Alton Chase. "And the northern oceans have actually been getting cooler. The much-vaunted 'global warming' figures are concocted by averaging equatorial warming with north temperate cooling."

A National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration study of ground temperature in the U.S. from 1889 to 1989 found no warming. And a recently concluded 10-year satellite weather study by two NASA scientists at the Huntsville Space Center and the University of Alabama also found zero warming.

There is no evidence of global warming, but even if it were to take place, many scientists say the effect would be good: it would lengthen growing seasons, make the earth more liveable, and forestall any future ice age.

CLEAN AIR ACT: Bush's Clean Air Act, signed into law in October 1990, gives the EPA dictatorial power over every American business whose products might be harmful if burned. Since almost everything is toxic if burned, this is the establishment of Green central planning.

The bill also subsidizes ethanol, methanol, and compressed natural gas, and orders manufacturers to produce expensive cars that run on them.

Ethanol, a corn-based fuel beloved of Sen. Bob Dole (R-IRS) and his ethanol-producing mentor, Dwayne Andreas of Archer-Daniels-Midland, gives off other forms of pollution, and is much more expensive than gasoline. (Note: this provision, by artificially increasing this demand for corn, will also raise food prices by about \$10 billion.)

Methanol is a highly corrosive fuel that destroys the normal automotive engine, requiring super-expensive alternatives. It costs more than gasoline, is only half as efficient, and is so toxic as to make gasoline seem almost benign in comparison.

Compressed natural gas requires massive steel tanks. A container holding the energy equivalent of a normal gasoline tank is much bigger and weighs 30 times as much, lowering mileage and wiping out most trunk space. And even a minimal number of refueling stations will cost \$15 billion.

The Clean Air Act also has higher CAFE standards (fleet-wide economy regulations) that will have the effect of mandating lighter and therefore more dangerous automobiles.

The bill also places new and heavy regulations on hundreds of thousands of small businesses, in the OSHA tradition. OSHA is the quintessential Establishment regulatory agency, since the Exxons of the world can easily handle its depredations, while small businesses cannot. It has been a tremendous relative benefit to big business, and a barrier to entrepreneurs and small firms.

The new Clean Air Act replicates this, in spades. Any business using one of 200 common chemicals will have to undergo a lengthy and expensive licensing process. This includes your corner dry cleaner and print shop. And if the owner violates any regulations, knowingly or unknowingly, he will be subjected to heavy civil and even criminal penalties.

If a business gets new equipment, it will need a new permit – another bar to innovation for small companies. And if a factory changes its production method, it too will need a new permit. Again, this is no problem for Dow Chemical, only for Dow's would-be competitors.

As bad as all these provisions are, the most serious and expensive aspects of the Clean Air Act involve "acid rain" and the ozone layer.

ACID RAIN: Environmentalists are adept at PR, and the very name acid rain conjures up images of drops eating through your umbrella and dissolving your hair. In fact, it means only that litmus paper turns a different color.

The environmentalists tell us that America's streams, rivers, and lakes are becoming dangerously acidic, and that the villain is coal burning by utility companies. However, the government's own ten-year, \$600 million National Acidic Precipitation Assessment Project – which the EPA has censored – found that acid rain is a non-problem.

Virtually all of the few acidic lakes have been that way since before the Industrial Revolution, thanks to water running through topsoil heavy with decaying vegetation. This is also why the naturalist Alexander von Humboldt found the giant Rio Negro river system in South America acidic and fishless two hundred years ago.

Ironically, the fish in some Adirondack lakes – where there has been the most publicity – are affected by reforestation. Cutting down trees in the early part of the century led to less acidic soil, and a more neutral pH in the water, and artificially stocked fish thrived. Replanting over the last few decades has meant more acid.

OZONE: The other major focus of the Clean Air Act is the alleged deterioration of the ozone layer. We're told that we need a robust layer of ozone to prevent too much ultra-violet B radiation. But this is another non-problem. Since 1974, when we began measuring the UVB radiation level, it has declined 10%. Less is getting through, despite alleged anti-ozone chemicals.

Ozone is created by the action of sunshine on oxygen, so it should be no surprise that over the South Pole in the winter, when there is little sunshine, the ozone layer might thin, or even develop a temporary hole. This has happened, it is the only place it has happened, and it was first recorded in the middle 1950s, long before the alleged chemical villains were in significant use.

Ozone is harmed, we're told, by chlorofluorocarbons, the wonder chemicals used in air conditioners, refrigerators, and spray cans, and which are essential to the computer industry as well. Stable and non-toxic, CFCs cannot catch fire, and they are tremendously energy efficient. Yet the Clean Air Act will heavily tax, and eventually ban, all CFCs and related chemicals.

The planned substitutes are not only poisonous and energy inefficient, they can catch fire and even explode. The exploding refrigerator: it seems a perfect symbol of what the Clean Air Act, and the entire environmental movement, will inflict on us for the sake of the mythical Mother Nature.

But ozone is good, we're told, only in the upper atmosphere. To cut down on its incidence at street level in Los Angeles, the entire country will be fastened with additional anti-automotive and anti-industrial controls, with more bad economic effects.

A GREEN GNP?: The environmentalists feel they have a PR problem. Since their explicit agenda is to make us consume less, that is, to be poorer, they worry that this may not be popular. So they have a solution: the Green GNP.

GNP – gross national product – is already a deficient statistic. For example, as government spending grows, so does the GNP, even though government growth subtracts from real wealth. Nevertheless, as the statistical avatar of American business activity, the GNP has tremendous political significance.

To hide the fact that their legislation and regulation makes us poorer, the environmentalists want "environmental quality" incorporated into GNP. The Environmental Protection Agency and similar bureaucracies in Western Europe are funding research to make this possible.

The federal government already owns more than 40% of the United States. Say, under environmentalist pressure, another billion acres is taken out of production to save an endangered weed. Green accounting will claim that our environmental quality has been improved by x billion dollars, and add this to the GNP. Already, the GNP figures disguise how poor we're getting along, thanks to government intervention in the economy. A Green GNP will take us even further from reality.

SPOTTED OWLS: When I visited a logging area in far northern California, I found no environmentalists. As the Sierra Club's own studies demonstrate, environmentalists are upper-class types who live in places like Manhattan and Malibu, not in the woods. Those who do have no illusions about the Earth Goddess Gaia.

Loggers know that mankind's very existence depends on bending nature to our will, and that if we ever stop doing so, the jungle will reclaim our cities.

The livelihood of 30,000 working families in the Northwest will be destroyed by Bush administration–approved anti-logging regulations on millions of acres, so 1,500 spotted owls can continue to live in the style to which they have become accustomed. If you think that wiping out 20 human families per owl seems excessive, it just shows how unenlightened you are.

(Note: if the spotted owl really is "endangered," and environmentalists want to save it, they should buy some land and set up an owl sanctuary. But using their own money somehow never occurs to them.)

The environmentalists privately admit, however, that the owl is not their major concern. It is outlawing all "old-growth" logging, a controversy which cuts to the heart of the environmentalist movement (unfortunately not with an ax).

Old-growth trees are precious because they were not planted by man, the Great Satan of the enviro-druidic religion. Pollution questions, although they make use of them, are irrelevant to these people. Old trees produce much less oxygen than new trees, so according to the "rain-forest criterion," we should harvest all old trees and plant new ones. I don't notice any environmentalists recommending that, however. In fact, California had a Forests Forever ballot initiative defeated in November 1990, to ban all old-growth logging. These are the same people, remember, who wanted to let Yellowstone's trees burn down because the fire was started by natural lightning.

To drive through far northern California is to be reminded of the aptness of Ronald Reagan's "if you've seen one tree, you've seen them all" remark. The monotony is broken only by the occasional town, an oasis of civilization in a green desert. Yet the environmentalists would turn these into ghost cities. As one affluent environmentalist told me, "those people have no business living there." Now if I can only find an Audubon Society meeting so I can wear my new logger t-shirt: "I Love Spotted Owls. Fried."

OIL: With the U.S. government prepared to go to war over oil, one would think that the environmental stranglehold on domestic energy production might be questioned. In fact, it has been made tighter, with millions more acres, off-shore and within the U.S., forever barred – or so the environmentalists hope – from energy production for humans.

The Arctic National Wildlife Reserve is full of oil, perhaps eight to nine billion barrels worth – even more than Prudoe Bay, points out columnist Stan Evans. So full of oil is this government wildlife reserve that oil seeps out of the ground and into the water, for some reason causing no media hysteria at the "desecration" involved. Yet this mammoth resource has been locked up by the feds through environmentalist pressure.

Production off the California, North and South Carolina, and Florida coasts is also banned, although there is probably 30 billion barrels there.

Through a coalition of rich people in places like Santa Barbara who don't want their free views disturbed by a distant drilling platform, and environmentalists who feel drilling contaminates Mother Earth, and might injure a seagull, the American people have been made poorer.

All federal lands should be privatized, but so long as they are government owned, they should at least be opened to productive human use, including oil production, coal and other forms of mining, and tree harvesting.

SMOKING: In 1604, James I of England ordered his subjects to stop using tobacco, "the horrible Stydgian smoke of the pit that is bottomless." Other anti-smoking politicians have tried whippings in Russia, nose-slittings in India, and beheadings in Turkey. One anti-smoking sultan roamed the streets of Istanbul in disguise and beheaded any tobacco seller he found. Even our present-day fanatics wouldn't go that far. I don't think.

Massachusetts outlawed the sale of tobacco in the 1630s, and in the 1640s, Connecticut banned public smoking and ordered private smokers to get a license.

These measures failed, just as Turkish capital punishment had. It was more than 150 years, points out our Gordon Dillow, before the anti-smoking movement revived.

All during the 19th century, what were called anti-smoking "agitations" increased. Eugenicist Orson Fowler even condemned it as an aphrodisiac, and warned that those who "would be pure in your love-instinct" should "cast this sensualizing fire from you."

In 1984, The New York Times said that "the decadence of Spain began when the Spaniards adopted cigarettes." With Americans using them, "the ruin of the Republic is close at hand."

Tobacco was accused of causing color blindness, weak eyesight, baldness, stunted growth, insanity, sterility, drunkenness, impotence, sexual promiscuity, mustaches on women, and constipation.

In 1893, New York Schools Commissioner Charles Hubbell said that "many and many a bright lad has had his will power weakened, his moral principle sapped, his nervous system wrecked, and his whole life spoiled before he is seventeen years old by the detestable cigarette. The 'cigarette fiend' in time becomes a liar and a thief. He will commit petty thefts to get money to feed his insatiable appetite for nicotine. He lies to his parents, his teachers, and his best friends. He neglects his studies and, narcotized by nicotine, sits at his desk half stupefied, his desire for work, his ambition, dulled if not dead."

By 1909, with the help of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the National Anti-Cigarette League succeeded in outlawing smoking in North Dakota, Iowa, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Washington, South Dakota, and Minnesota. New York City outlawed smoking by women, and 29-year-old Katie Mulcahey was jailed for lighting up in front of a policeman and telling him: "No man shall dictate to me."

When drinking was outlawed, evangelist Billy Sunday said: "Prohibition is won; now for tobacco." The Presbyterian, Northern Baptist, and Methodist churches called for tobacco prohibition, but amidst growing public dismay about the effects of alcohol prohibition, they failed to win many more converts.

A popular song seemed to sum it all up:

Tobacco is a dirty weed. I like it.
It satisfies no normal need. I like it.
It makes you thin, it makes you lean, It takes the hair right off your bean.
It's the worst darn stuff I've ever seen.
I like it.

Gradually the states repealed their anti-tobacco laws. Kansas's was the last to go in 1927.

But tobacco prohibition fever is upon us once again. California always seems to lead the way in these matters, and today, not only do they have hectoring state anti-drinking signs in their restaurants, they are subjected to an expensive and intrusive state advertising campaign against smoking.

The anti-smoketeers were bolstered in the last decade by the Ruritanian admiral with the 1,000-mile stare, Dr. C. Everett Kopp. As Surgeon General, he preached about the dangers of "second-hand" smoke. But where was the evidence?

An American Cancer Society study of 180,000 American women has not detected any increased risk to non-smoking wives of heavy smokers. And a Yale Medical School study showed that tobacco smoke in the air very slightly improved the breathing ability of asthmatics!

But none of this matters. Our health Nazis are obsessed by the idea that someone, somewhere, might be enjoying a smoke or a drink. Therefore their \$28.6 million government ad campaign.

I find the notion of state behavioral advertising chilling. (Although I wouldn't mind trying anti-bribe ads in the legislature.)

No one was supposed to be persuaded by the slogans that used to festoon Moscow: "Glory to the Communist Party," "Toil for the Motherland," etc. They were there to demoralize the opposition. So it is in California.

With newspaper, TV, and radio ads, the state department of health services says it will "change the image" of smoking from "sexy, glamorous, youthful" to "dumb, dirty, dangerous." While I don't know anyone who thinks smoking is the former, the latter sounds like a great description of the California government.

The tobacco industry works through persuasion. The State of California (not to speak of the U.S. government) gets its money, and its way, at the point of a gun. Give me Virginia Slims over the tax man any day.

SIEG HEALTH: We've always known the Nazis were economic left-wingers (Nazi standing for National Socialist German Workers Party), but now – thanks to Robert N. Proctor's [Racial Hygiene: Medicine Under the Nazis](#) (Harvard University Press, 1988) – we know they were health nuts, exercise freaks, ecologists, organic food zealots, animal righters, and alcohol and tobacco haters.

Like today's environmentalists, who place every bug and weed above humans, the Nazis were ardent conservationists. They passed a host of laws to protect "nature and nature's animals," especially "endangered" plants and animals.

The Nazis outlawed medical research on animals, with Hermann Goering threatening anyone who broke the law with being "deported to a concentration camp." He jailed a fisherman for six months because he cut off a bait frog's head while it was still alive, and the German humor magazine *Simplissimus* ran a cartoon with a platoon of frogs giving Goering the Nazi salute.

As believers in "organic medicine," the Nazis urged the German people to eat raw fruits and vegetables, since the preservation, sterilization, and pasteurization of food meant "alienation from nature."

They even hated Wonder Bread. "In 1935, Reich's Health Fuehrer Gerhard Wager launched an attack on the recent shift from natural whole-grain bread to highly refined white bread," says Proctor. Denouncing white bread as a "chemical product," Wagner linked the "bread question" to a "broader need to return to a diet of less meat and fats, more fruits and vegetables, and more whole-grain bread."

In 1935, Wagner formed the Reich Whole-Grain Bread Committee to pressure bakers not to produce white bread, and Goebbels produced a propaganda poster tying Aryanism to whole-grain bread. In 1935, only 1% of German bakeries were health-food stores. By 1943, 23 % were.

The Nazis were also anti-pesticide, with Hitler's personal physician, Theodore Morell, declaring the DDT especially was "both useless and dangerous." He prevented its distribution.

The Nazis funded massive research into the environmental dangers of background radiation, lead, asbestos, and mercury. They campaigned against artificial colorings and preservatives, and demanded more use of organic "pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, fertilizers, and foods." Government medical journals blamed cancer on red meat and chemical preservatives.

Drinking was actively discouraged, and there were stiff penalties for anyone caught driving drunk, with the police – for the first time – empowered to give mandatory blood alcohol tests.

Hitler, a vegetarian and health-food enthusiast, was also a teetotaler. Himmler shared Hitler's hatred for alcohol, and had his S.S. promote the production of fruit juices and mineral water as substitutes.

Hitler especially hated smoking, however, and he would allow no one to smoke in his presence. When the state of Saxony established the Institute for the Struggle Against Tobacco at the University of Jena in 1942, he donated 100,000 RM of his own money to it. He also banned smoking on city trains and buses.

The Nazis believed in natural childbirth, mid-wifery, and breastfeeding, and women who breastfed their children instead of using "artificial formula" received a subsidy from the state. By the middle 1930s, the Nazis had outlawed physician-assisted births in favor of midwives.

The Nazis also promoted herbal medicine, and the S.S. farms at Dachau were billed as the "largest research institute for natural herbs and medicines in Europe."

No wonder our eco-leftists have that glint in their eye. From now on, I'm going to check if they are wearing armbands.

Animal Lovers and People Haters

One of the fastest growing and most radical parts of the environmental movement is the animal rightists. They too worship nature, but make a cult out of animals whom they equate with human beings, and in fact place above us.

BABY SEALS: About ten years ago, we were subjected to a barrage of photos and news stories about big-eyed seal pups hunted for their fur. Greenpeace stirred a worldwide propaganda campaign, and the European Community and others banned the import of the pelts.

This not only wiped out the livelihood of the natives who hunted the seals, but it harmed the fishing industry. With no hunting to keep the seal population under control, the animals are devouring increasingly scarce fish and damaging nets.

Some bureaucrats are proposing a government seal hunt (no private hunters, of course), but the environmentalists have prevented it. Meanwhile, stocks of cod and other fish continue to drop. Do the environmentalists care? We "shouldn't eat anything with a face," one told me.

FLIPPED OUT: One environmentalists' Victim of the Month was the dolphin. Some of the animals were caught inadvertently by tuna fishermen, but Flipper reruns on TV must have convinced millions of Americans that dolphins are intelligent, so the environmentalists were able to persuade them to spear the tuna industry.

Santa Barbara, California, has now declared a Dolphin Awareness Day; school children all across America engaged in letter-writing campaigns (those who still could, despite the government schools); and San Francisco kids were denounced if they brought tuna sandwiches to school.

The Audubon Society, the Humane Society, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Greenpeace, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), and a host of similar organizations wanted an end, in effect, to the organized American tuna industry, and they may get it.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act, passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan in 1981, imposed convoluted regulations on the industry in the name of saving dolphins. But that's not good enough, says Congresswoman Barbara Boxer (D-CA): dolphins "have creative centers larger than humans." Or at least larger than members of Congress. So new federal restrictions are needed.

Even before the politicians could act, however, Greenpeace and other environmental groups pressured the four major tuna companies to stop using fish caught by nets because an occasional dolphin might be caught. The livelihood of American tuna fishermen, with the life savings of whole families invested in expensive boats and equipment, was, of course, irrelevant. The companies will now only buy tuna from the western Pacific, where there are no dolphins, and no American fishermen.

The environmentalists admit, be it noted, that they also cherish the life of the tuna, and want it also protected from fishermen, but they will have to wait. Charlie hasn't had his own TV show yet.

EXTINCTION: From the snail darter to the furbish lousewort, every existing animal and plant species must be kept in existence by the government – claim the environmentalists – even if human rights are violated. But why?

Most of the species that have existed since the "creation," from trilobites to dinosaurs, are now extinct through normal processes. Why not allow this to continue?

If, for scientific or entertainment purposes, some people want to preserve this species or that on their own land and at their own expense, great. Zoos and universities do this already. But the rest of us should not be taxed and regulated, and have our property rights wiped out, to save every weed and bug. The only environmental impact that counts is that on humans.

FUR: In Aspen, Colorado, voters defeated a proposed ban on fur sales, but in most places it is the furaphobes who make themselves felt, especially since they are willing to use almost any tactic.

They spray-paint women in fur coats, slash coats with razors and burn down fur stores. Last year, they put incendiary bombs in the fur-selling areas of department stores all over the San Francisco Bay area. Police suspect the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), which has been charged with using identical devices elsewhere. But such is the environmentalist influence in the media that there was little publicity.

ALF, which the California attorney general calls a terrorist organization, says it seeks "to inflict economic damage on animal torturers," from fur sellers to medical researchers.

MEDICAL RESEARCH: A physician researching Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Dr. John Orem, "conducted ground breaking – and painless – research on cats," notes Katie McCabe in The Washingtonian, "until his lab was trashed by the Animal Liberation Front." Children may die as a result, but ALF says: so what? Anything is justified to stop the use of animals.

Congress listens respectfully to animal-rights lobbyists, and has passed legislation making medical research more expensive. One amendment from then-Sen. John Melcher (D-MT) requires researchers to protect the "psychological well-being" of monkeys (whom Congressmen must feel close to) at an estimated cost of \$1 billion.

This plays, however, directly into the hands of people-killers. Who knows how many cures will go undiscovered because of these restrictions? Thousands of babies have been saved because we know about the Rh factor, which was discovered through the use of rhesus monkeys. But animal rights advocates say it is better that babies die than that monkeys be used to save them.

Even Rep. Bob Dornan (R-CA) has pushed animal-rights legislation that would add billions to medical research costs. Not that he goes all the way with these people. Although named "Legislator of the Year" by the radical PETA, Dornan still "wears leather shoes." Until PETA outlaws them, that is, for the animal rightists see cow leather as no different than human skin.

Fred Barnes reports in The New Republic – itself pro-animal rights – that the Bush administration has buckled under animal rights pressure (Barbara is rumored to be a supporter) and "strongly opposed" legislation empowering the FBI to investigate terrorist attacks on medical research facilities.

In a cover story on the subject, New Republic senior editor Robert Wright says he was converted by the "stubborn logic" of the animal-rights movement, although he – like Dornan – doesn't go all the way. He still believes in "the use of primates in AIDS research."

ANTS AND SWANS: The animal rights lobby wants them to outlaw any use of animals in medical research, food, or clothing. There is "no rational basis for saying that a human being has special rights," says Ingrid Newkirk, director of PETA. "The smallest form of life, even an ant or a clam, is equal to a human being."

The "murder of animals," says Alex Pacheco, chairman of PETA, is equivalent to the "murder of men." Eating oysters on the halfshell makes you Charles Manson.

Recently there was an uproar in southern Connecticut. The state's wildlife division had proposed, in the face of an out-of-control swan population, to "shake eggs." The swans – large, heavy, aggressive birds with no natural predators in the area – were attacking children. The swans couldn't, of course, be hunted, so rangers were deputized to rattle fertilized eggs to prevent hatching.

Thousands of residents protested this violation of the swans' rights, many proponents of human abortion among them. If children were injured by the swans, so be it. (Note: This is in the Green tradition. Rousseau abandoned his five children as "an inconvenience" and animal-rights activists are typically pro-abortion.)

Let's get serious, says a PETA spokeswoman: "Six million Jews died in concentration camps, but six billion broiler chickens will die this year in slaughter houses."

The Politics of Environmentalism

From FDR to the present, the Democrats have been bad on environmentalism. It played an important part in the New Deal and the Great Society (Lyndon Johnson called himself "the Conservation President"), and any day I expect to see the Democrats designate trees as what Joe Sobran calls an Officially Accredited Minority, with a certain number of seats (plastic, of course) in their national convention.

But environmentalism got its political start under the original liberal Republican: Teddy Roosevelt. As no one who knows Washington will be surprised to learn, there were special interests at work.

When the federal government established the national parks system, and locked up millions of acres, it made other land – held especially by the timber and railroad interests associated with J.P. Morgan, Roosevelt's mentor – much more valuable. Some of these interests were the funders of the original conservation lobbying organization.

Richard Nixon continued this tradition when he established – by executive order – the Environmental Protection Agency. Not surprisingly, the EPA's budget has been dominated by sewage-treatment and other construction contracts for well-connected big businessmen. But small and medium businesses, and the American consumer, have suffered from its endless regulations.

And now the EPA is to be elevated by President Bush – the "Environment President" – into a cabinet department. President Bush has also proposed a New Deal-style \$2 billion program to plant a billion saplings, none of them members of Congress.

Are we short of trees? No, but the president is "genuinely fond of trees," says a White House aide. And although no one thinks it will "cure the Greenhouse effect," it's "symbolic of his commitment to the environment." America foresters, farmers, landowners, and homeowners don't know the proper number of trees, but Washington, D.C., does.

World Government and the Environment

Some problems, like alleged global warming, are so enormous, say the environmentalists, that only world government can solve them. And the one-world-types who infest the national Democrats and the resurgent Rockefeller wing of the Republican Party are glad to comply.

Right now, the State Department and the EPA are negotiating a plan, based on the new Clean Air Act, to issue pollution permits worldwide. Third World countries would get "excess" permits, which they could then sell to Western companies, bringing about another transfer of wealth from the West to the Third World, which will undoubtedly be used to pay back the big bank loans of Third World governments.

Establishmentarian Elliot L. Richardson, writing in The New York Times, says that "nothing will be done" environmentally "without an institutional mechanism to develop, institute, and enforce regulations across national boundaries."

To build "a global Environmental Protection Agency," perhaps run like "the United Nations General Assembly," that could levy taxes and impose controls to make sure there is "equitable burden sharing," the U.S. government must lead the way in the "interest of the entire world community."

Ever since Woodrow Wilson, liberals have been infected with the idea of world government. With the melding of the European Community and the coming establishment of its tax authority and central bank, the Trilateralist ideal has come closer.

Patriotic Americans must reject this globaloney, and not only on grounds of national sovereignty. We know how difficult it is to deal with city hall, let alone the state or federal government. A world bureaucracy would be a taxing, meddling nightmare. Well-connected international lawyers like Elliot Richardson would do well, but the average American would get it in the neck.

The Economics of Environmentalism

Once we reject utopianism, and realize that – for example – eight million people can't live in Los Angeles and have air like rural Colorado's – we can set about solving real environmental problems through the only possible mechanism: private property and the price system.

When the price system functions freely, it brings supply and demand into rough equality, ensuring that resources are put to their most-valued uses. To the extent that government meddles with prices, it ensures waste, hampers entrepreneurship, and makes people poorer.

If coffee – for whatever reason – becomes scarcer, its price goes up, which tells consumers to drink less. If more coffee comes on the market, its price goes down, telling consumers they can drink more. Prices thus constitute a system of resource conservation.

But environmentalists pretend – like Soviet central planners – to know economic values without prices. They claim we are "running out" of everything, and thus we need government controls on consumption. But if we really were running out of, say, oil, its price would skyrocket, telling consumers to use less and entrepreneurs to seek substitutes. And when the oil supply was threatened by the Iraqi War, that's exactly what happened.

Neither do the voluntary eco-restrictions work as intended. The environmentalists are forever telling us to be poorer and use less water, less gasoline, less toilet paper, etc. But if they reduce their consumption, it lowers the price for the rest of us, and we can use more. (P.S.: Don't pass this on to the environmentalists; it's the one favor they do the rest of us.)

When anything is commonly owned – like air and water – we see all the bad effects of socialism. People abuse the resource because they do not have to bear the price.

To solve this problem, anyone who is personally harmed, or his business damaged, by air pollution ought to be able to sue to stop it, and receive damages. But the federal government intervened in this common-law process in the 19th century to favor special interests, making it impossible, to take a real example, for a farmer to sue a railroad whose spark emissions burned down his orchard.

The federal government also nationalized the coasts and waterways specifically to smooth the way for industrial special interests.

If, as is the case with many waterways in England and other countries, people had property rights in the streams and rivers running through their land, they could prevent pollution just as they prevent trash-dumping in their front yard. And if fishermen and homeowners held property rights in the coasts and adjacent waters, they could prevent pollution and properly allocate fishing rights.

The recent hysteria over African elephant tusks was another problem of property rights. If people were allowed to raise elephants and sell their tusks – as even the Zimbabwean government pointed out – there would be no more and no fewer elephant tusks than there should be. The same principle applies to all other resources. If left in common ownership, there will be misuse. If put in private hands, we will have the right amount: supply will meet demand.

An example of market conservation was the Cayman Turtle Farm in the British West Indies. The green sea turtle was considered endangered, thanks to over-harvesting due to common ownership. The Farm was able to hatch eggs and bring the hatchlings to maturity at a far higher rate than in nature. Its stock grew to 80,000 green turtles.

But the environmentalists hated the Cayman Turtle Farm, since in their view it is morally wrong to profit from wildlife. The Farm was driven out of business and the green turtle is again on the endangered species list.

Greens – like all liberals – justify government intervention because of what economists call "public goods" and "externalities."

A "public good" is supposed to be something we all want, but can't get, unless government provides it. Environmentalists claim everyone wants national parks, but the market won't provide them, so the government must. But how can we know, independent of the market, that everyone does want these expensive parks? Or how many parks of what sort?

We could take a survey, but that doesn't tell us the intensity of economic demand. More important, it is not enough to know that people want, for example, diamonds. That means something economically only if they are willing to give up other things to obtain them.

Amazingly, liberal economists have never developed a way to identify these so-called public goods, so-objective scientists that they are—they use intuition. Paul Samuelson's favorite example was the lighthouse, until Ronald Coase demonstrated that private entrepreneurs had provided lighthouses for centuries.

If we realize that only the market can give us economic information, the alleged problem of public goods disappears. Absent government prohibitions and subsidies, or competition from "free" parks, the market will ensure that we have exactly the number and type of parks that the American people want, and are willing to pay for. Moreover, if we sell all the national parks, we can pay off the federal debt.

An "externality" is a side-effect. Your neighbors' attractive new landscaping is a positive externality; their barking dog is a negative one. One is a blessing, the other an irritant, but you voluntarily purchase neither.

Environmentalists say, for example, that trash is a negative externality of consumerism. So they advocate more regulation and bureaucracy to solve it. Yet the free market solves this much more justly and efficiently through property rights. Privatize everything and the externalities are "internalized," that is, those who ought to bear the costs do. But to environmentalists, human prosperity is itself a negative externality.

How To Think About Environmentalism

Chicken or chicory, elephant or endive, the natural order is valuable only in so far as it serves human needs and purposes. Our very existence is based on our dominion over nature; it was created for that end, and it is to that end that it must be used – through a private-property, free-market order.

The environmental movement is openly anti-human and virulently statist. Is it any coincidence that the Nazis exalted animals, nature, and vegetarianism above humans, civilization, and civilized eating, or that our environmentalists have an air of green goose step about them?

The environmentalists must be opposed – if they will excuse the expression – root and branch. But it will not be easy.

On a recent Saturday morning, I sat down with my nine-year-old daughter to watch a cartoon. The villain, Mr. DeForest, wanted to cut down trees on his property and build a lakeside hotel. He and his employees were thuggish and greedy, whereas the characters who deprived this man of his property rights, and prevented the establishment of a business that would have improved the life of every human in the area, were heroes. The schools and media spread similar propaganda. There is even a "Pledge of Allegiance to The Earth."

Earth Day 1990 was celebrated on April 22nd, which by no coincidence was Lenin's birthday. Rather than joining the earth-worshippers with their missals of [50 Simple Things You Can Do To Save the Earth](#) and [The Sexual Politics of Meat: A Feminist-Vegetarian Critical Theory](#), I took a different tack.

I spritzed some hairspray at the sky (not having enough hair to justify pointing it at me), used up a whole roll of paper towels, turned the refrigerator thermostat down, mixed newspapers with my garbage, filled up my car at an Exxon station, turned on all the lights, and took my daughter to McDonald's for cheeseburgers, since they still had those nice, clean styrofoam containers. Unfortunately, it wasn't cold enough to wear my fur hat.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr., former publications editor to Ludwig von Mises and congressional chief of staff to Ron Paul, is founder and chairman of the [Mises Institute](#), executor for the estate of Murray N. Rothbard, and editor of [LewRockwell.com](#). [See his books](#).

LewRockwell [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:24 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Bob Moser: "Populism," the Most Abused Noun

"Populism," the Most Abused Noun in the English Language

By Bob Moser [article link](#)

May 1, 2010 Texas Observer

Note: Bob Moser wrote the following column in advance of a sure-to-be-shit-kicking day of populist festivities this Saturday, May 1, at Texas State University. "The Living Spirit of Texas Populism," from 1 to 7 p.m. at Texas State University, will feature local music, food and brew, and panel discussions on populist politics and culture, with speakers including yours truly, former U.S. Sen. Fred Harris, Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor Linda Chavez-Thompson, Observer cartoonist Ben Sargent and, of course, Jim Hightower. To make sure you get a seat, RSVP at either southwesternwriters@txstate.edu or 512-245-2313.

'Populism' is surely the most abused noun in the English language these days. If you're a white, well-educated sort who detests government and worships the mystical powers of free markets, you're a populist. If you're protesting health-care reform and Photoshopping toothbrush mustaches onto images of President Obama, you're a populist. If you're Gov. Rick Perry, rhetorically bashing government while using it to enrich the rich, you're a populist. If you're Perry's political paramour Sarah Palin, declaring at the National Tea Party Convention that "We got into this mess because of government interference in the first place," you're not merely a populist; according to that paragon of the establishment media, David Broder, you're espousing "pitch-perfect populism."

Except that you're not. You're doing exactly the opposite.

If anybody ought to understand this, it's Texans. Populism—the real kind—was born here, after all, when the Farmers Alliance movement was formed in Lampasas in 1877. The Alliance helped spawn the People's Party, which had a brief but heady national run in the 1890s and dreamed up damn near every significant progressive reform of the 20th century.

Populism was—still is—all about making government a force for economic justice. It's about class warfare, straight-up and unapologetic. It's the sworn enemy of the right-wingers now claiming the name. As Peter Beinart wrote recently on The Daily Beast, "The Tea Partiers aren't standing up for the little guy; they're standing up to the little guy."

Lord only knows what these folks would do if we had an actual populist in the White House. "We believe that the power of government—in other words, of the people—should be expanded," declared the original 1892 platform of the People's Party, "as rapidly and as far as the good sense of an intelligent people and the teachings of experience shall justify, to the end that oppression, injustice and poverty shall eventually cease in the land."

Like the tea partiers, populists have always railed at Washington—not for doing too much, but rather too little. The original populists worked for democratizing reforms—women’s suffrage, direct elections of U.S. senators (long chosen by state legislatures), getting rid of literacy tests and poll taxes—that would make government more responsive to the people and less the tool of the moneyed elite. And while plenty of racist Southern politicians later espoused economic populism, the real deals were dedicated to empowering blacks and whites alike. So what can we accurately call the tea partiers? Kevin Baker, in Harper’s, suggests “counter-populists.” I think “anti-” might work—as in “anti-populist Gov. Rick Perry.” That has a bell-clear ring of truth to it. Then again, so does a term I spotted in a cartoon on the web site of Texas’ best-known living populist, Jim Hightower: “WASPulist.”

Beinart has another suggestion: “What kind of adjective suits older, grumpy, well-off Americans who believe Democrats are communists, the poor have it too easy and white people are oppressed? The term ‘Republican’ comes to mind.”

Call them what you will; just don’t call them populists. Why does it matter? Because, no matter how much it’s been distorted, there is serious power in owning the word. That’s why the right has fought so hard to claim it. And why the left needs to reclaim it—not only in name but in spirit.

“Populists have always been out to challenge the orthodoxy of the corporate order,” Hightower writes. That’s a far cry from the liberalism embodied by Obama. “Classic liberalism,” Hightower notes, “seeks to live in harmony with concentrated power by regulating its excesses.”

That’s the liberalism that creates health-care reform that delivers millions of new customers to private insurers—rather than a single-payer system. Contemporary liberals work to make things better, not to bust them apart and reinvent them for the people’s benefit. And that’s partly because we’ve swallowed the notion that populism is the property of the right—that the American people, at their core, are fundamentally and unshakably devoted to small government and big money.

“The triumph of populism,” writes Observer alumnus Lawrence Goodwyn in the definitive book on the populist movement, Democratic Promise, “was the belief in possibility it injected into American political consciousness.”

We’ve lost that belief. It’s way past time we got it—and populism—back.

Bob Moser is a contributing writer at [The Nation](#), and is the editorial director of The Nation Institute's Investigative Fund.

© 2010 Texas Observer All rights reserved.

Texas Observer [home page](#)

AlterNet Stories by Bob Moser [web page](#)

AlterNet [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:17 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Herman Daly: Money And The Steady State Economy](#)

Money and the Steady State Economy

by Herman Daly [article link](#) [article link](#)

25th April 2010

Centre for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy (CASSE)

Historically money has evolved through three phases: (1) commodity money (e.g. gold); (2) token money (certificates tied to gold); and (3) fiat money (certificates not tied to gold).

1. Gold has a real cost of mining and value as a commodity in addition to its exchange value as money. Gold’s money value and commodity value tend to equality. If gold as commodity is worth more than gold as money then coins are melted into

bullion and sold as commodity until the commodity price falls to equality with the monetary value again. The money supply is thus determined by geology and mining technology, not by government policy or the lending and borrowing by private banks. This keeps irresponsible politicians' and bankers' hands off the money supply, but at the cost of a lot of real resources and environmental destruction necessary to mine gold, and of tying the money supply not to economic conditions, but to extraneous facts of geology and mining technology.

Historically the gold standard also had the advantage of providing an international money. Trade deficits were settled by paying gold; surpluses by receiving gold. But since gold was also national money, the money supply in the deficit country went down, and in the surplus country went up. Consequently the price level and employment declined in the deficit country (stimulating exports and discouraging imports) and rose in the surplus country (discouraging exports and stimulating imports), tending to restore balanced trade. Trade imbalances were self-correcting, and if we remember that gold, the balancing item, was itself a commodity, we might even say imbalances were nonexistent. But of course the associated increases and decreases in the national price levels and employment were disruptive.

2. Token money would function pretty much like the gold standard if there were a one-to-one relation between gold and tokens issued. But with token money came fractional reserve banking. Goldsmiths used to loan gold to people, but gold is heavy stuff and awkward to carry around. Token money was created when a goldsmith gave a borrower a document entitling the bearer to a stated quantity of gold. If the goldsmith were widely trusted, the token would circulate with the same value as the gold it represented.

As goldsmiths evolved into banks they began to make loans by creating tokens (demand deposits) in the name of the borrower in excess of the gold they held in reserve. This practice, profitable to banks, was legalized. Statistically it works as long as most depositors do not demand their gold at the same time—a run on the bank. Bank failures in the United States due to such panics led to insuring deposits by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). But insurance also has a moral hazard aspect of reducing the vigilance of depositors and stockholders in reviewing risky loans by the bank. Fractional reserves allow the banking system to multiply the money tokens (demand deposits that function as money) far beyond the amount of gold “backing.”

3. Fiat money came when we dropped any pretense of gold “backing,” and paper tokens were declared to be money by government fiat. Currency is printed by the government at negligible cost of production, unlike gold. As the issuer of fiat money the government makes a profit (called seigniorage) from the difference between the commodity value of the token (nil) and its monetary value (\$1, \$5, ...\$100 ...depending on the denomination of the paper note). Everyone has to give up a dollar's worth of goods or services to get a dollar—except for the issuer of the money who gives up practically nothing for a full dollar's worth of wealth.

Nowadays the fractional reserve banking system counts fiat currency instead of gold as reserves against its lending. The demand deposit money created by the private banking sector is a large multiple of the amount of fiat money issued by the government. Who earns the seigniorage on the newly created demand deposits? The private banks in the first instance, but some is competed away to customers in the form of higher interest rates on savings deposits, lower service charges, etc. It is difficult to say just what happens to seigniorage on demand deposits, but clearly that on fiat currency goes to the government. (With commodity money seigniorage is zero because commodity value equals monetary value—except when the mint purposely debased gold coins).

Under our present system, money is currency plus demand deposits. Currency is created out of paper by the government, and no interest is charged for it; demand deposits are created by banks out of nothing (up to a large limit set by small reserve requirements) and interest is charged for it. For example, when you take out a mortgage to buy a house, you are not borrowing someone else's money deposited at the bank. The bank is in fact loaning you money that did not exist before it created a new deposit in your name. When you repay the debt, it in effect destroys the money the bank initially loaned into existence. But over the next 30 years, you will pay back several times what the bank initially loaned you. Although demand deposits are constantly being created and destroyed, at any given time over 90% of our money supply is in the form of demand deposits.

If phase 3, our present system, seems “screwy” to you, it should. Why should money, a public utility (serving the public as medium of exchange, store of value, and unit of account), be largely the by-product of private lending and borrowing? Is that much of an improvement over being a by-product of private gold mining? Why should the public pay interest to the private banking sector to provide a medium of exchange that the government can provide at no cost? Why should not seigniorage, unavoidable in a fiat money system, go entirely to the government (the commonwealth) rather than in large part to the private sector?

Is there not a better away? Yes, there is. We need not go back to the gold standard. Keep fiat money, but move from fractional reserve banking to a system of 100% reserve requirements. The change need not be drastic—we could gradually raise the reserve requirement to 100%. This would put control of the money supply and all seigniorage in hands of the government rather than private banks, which would no longer be able to live the alchemist’s dream of creating money out of nothing and lending it at interest. All quasi-bank financial institutions should be brought under this rule, regulated as commercial banks subject to 100% reserve requirements. Credit cards would become debit cards. Banks would earn their profit by financial intermediation only — i.e. lending savers’ money for them (charging a loan rate higher than the rate paid to savings account depositors) and charging for checking, safekeeping, and other services.

With 100% reserves every dollar loaned to a borrower would be a dollar previously saved by a depositor, re-establishing the classical balance between investment and abstinence. The government would pay some of its expenses by issuing more non interest-bearing fiat money in order to make up for the eliminated bank-created, interest-bearing money. However, it can only do this up to a strict limit imposed by inflation. If the government issues more money than the public voluntarily wants to hold, the public will trade it for goods, bidding the price level up. As soon as the price index begins to rise the government must print less, tax more, or withdraw some of the previously issued currency from circulation.

Thus a policy of maintaining a constant price index would govern the internal value of the dollar (providing a trustworthy store of value and constant unit of account). In effect the fiat money would receive a real backing—not gold, but the basket of commodities in the price index. The external value of the dollar could be left to freely fluctuating exchange rates. These policies are not new—they go back to Frederick Soddy in 1926, and to similar proposals by Frank Knight and Irving Fisher, the leading American economists of the 1920s. The fact that bankers and their friends in government and academia have willfully ignored these ideas for 90 years does not constitute a refutation of them, but rather is a tribute to the power of vested interests over the common good.

How would the 100% reserve system serve the steady state economy?

First, as just mentioned it would restrict borrowing for new investment to existing savings, greatly reducing speculative growth ventures—for example the leveraging of stock purchases with huge amounts of borrowed money would be severely limited.

Second, the fact that money no longer has to grow to pay back the principal plus the interest required by the loan responsible for the money’s very existence lowers the general pressure to grow. Money becomes neutral with respect to growth rather than biasing the system toward growth.

Third, the financial sector will no longer be able to capture such a large share of the nation’s wealth, leaving more available for meeting the needs of the poor. A steady state economy is not viable if it means a steady state of poverty for any significant proportion of the population.

Fourth, the money supply would no longer expand during a boom, when banks like to loan lots of money, and contract during a recession, when banks try to collect outstanding debts, thereby reinforcing the cyclical tendency of the economy. Reducing the risk of recession reduces the need to accumulate more to get us through the bad times.

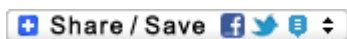
Fifth, with 100% reserves there is no danger of a run on the bank leading to failure, and the FDIC could be abolished, along with its consequent moral hazard.

Sixth, the explicit policy of a constant price index would reduce fears of inflation and the resultant quest to accumulate more as a protection against inflation.

Seventh, a regime of fluctuating exchange rates automatically balances international trade accounts, eliminating big international surpluses and deficits. US consumption growth would be reduced without its deficit; Chinese production growth would be reduced without its surplus. By making balance-of-payments lending unnecessary, fluctuating exchange rates would greatly shrink the role of the IMF and its “conditionalities.” It also introduces more short-term risk and uncertainty into both international trade and investment. Many economists would see this as a disadvantage, but steady state economics favors a greater degree of national production for national consumption, and fluctuating rates would offer a bit of protection in the form of adding an extra element of cost (exchange rate risk) to international transactions. Like the Tobin tax it “throws a bit of sand into the gears” and reduces global commerce and interdependence to a more manageable level.

To dismiss such sound policies as “extreme” in the face of the demonstrated fraudulence of our current financial system is quite absurd. The idea is not to nationalize banks, but to nationalize money, which is a natural public utility in the first place. This monetary system makes sense independently of one’s views on the steady state economy. But it fits better in a steady state economy than in a growth economy.

Centre for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy (CASSE) [home page](#)
Share The World's Resources [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:13 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Friday, April 30, 2010

[Matt Taibbi: The Lunatics Who Made a Religion Out of Greed](#)

The Lunatics Who Made a Religion Out of Greed and Wrecked the Economy

by Matt Taibbi [article link](#)

04.28.10 Rolling Stone

The SEC's lawsuit against Goldman Sachs is a chance to prevent greed without limits.

So Goldman Sachs, the world's greatest and smuggest investment bank, has been sued for fraud by the American Securities and Exchange Commission. Legally, the case hangs on a technicality.

Morally, however, the Goldman Sachs case may turn into a final referendum on the greed-is-good ethos that conquered America sometime in the 80s – and in the years since has aped other horrifying American trends such as boybands and reality shows in spreading across the western world like a venereal disease.

When Britain and other countries were engulfed in the flood of defaults and derivative losses that emerged from the collapse of the American housing bubble two years ago, few people understood that the crash had its roots in the lunatic greed-centered objectivist religion, fostered back in the 50s and 60s by ponderous emigre novelist Ayn Rand.

While, outside of America, Russian-born Rand is probably best known for being the unfunniest person western civilisation has seen since maybe Goebbels or Jack the Ripper (63 out of 100 colobus monkeys recently forced to read Atlas Shrugged in a laboratory setting died of boredom-induced aneurysms), in America Rand is upheld as an intellectual giant of limitless wisdom. Here in the States, her ideas are roundly worshipped even by people who've never read her books or even heard of her. The rightwing "Tea Party" movement is just one example of an entire demographic that has been inspired to mass protest by Rand without even knowing it.

Last summer I wrote a brutally negative article about Goldman Sachs for Rolling Stone magazine (I called the bank a "great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity") that unexpectedly sparked a heated national debate. On one side of the debate were people like me, who believed that Goldman is little better than a criminal enterprise that earns its billions by bilking the market, the government, and even its own clients in a bewildering variety of complex financial scams.

On the other side of the debate were the people who argued Goldman wasn't guilty of anything except being "too smart" and really, really good at making money. This side of the argument was based almost entirely on the Randian belief system, under which the leaders of Goldman Sachs appear not as the cheap swindlers they look like to me, but idealized heroes, the saviors of society.

In the Randian ethos, called objectivism, the only real morality is self-interest, and society is divided into groups who are efficiently self-interested (ie, the rich) and the "parasites" and "moochers" who wish to take their earnings through taxes, which are an unjust use of force in Randian politics. Rand believed government had virtually no natural role in society. She conceded that police were necessary, but as such a fervent believer in laissez-faire capitalism she refused to accept any need for economic regulation – which is a fancy way of saying we only need law enforcement for unsophisticated criminals.

Rand's fingerprints are all over the recent Goldman story. The case in question involves a hedge fund financier, John Paulson, who went to Goldman with the idea of a synthetic derivative package pegged to risky American mortgages, for use in betting against the mortgage market. Paulson would short the package, called Abacus, and Goldman would then sell the deal to suckers who would be told it was a good bet for a long investment. The SEC's contention is that Goldman committed a crime – a "failure to disclose" – when they failed to tell the suckers about the role played by the vulture betting against them on the other side of the deal.

Now, the instruments in question in this deal – collateralized debt obligations and credit default swaps – fall into the category of derivatives, which are virtually unregulated in the US thanks in large part to the effort of gremlinish former Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan, who as a young man was close to Rand and remained a staunch Randian his whole life. In the late 90s, Greenspan lobbied hard for the passage of a law that came to be called the Commodity Futures Modernisation Act of 2000, a monster of a bill that among other things deregulated the sort of interest-rate swaps Goldman used in its now-infamous dealings with Greece.

Both the Paulson deal and the Greece deal were examples of Goldman making millions by bending over their own business partners. In the Paulson deal the suckers were European banks such as ABN-Amro and IKB, which were never told that the stuff Goldman was cheerfully selling to them was, in effect, designed to implode; in the Greece deal, Goldman hilariously used exotic swaps to help the country mask its financial problems, then turned right around and bet against the country by shorting Greece's debt.

Now here's the really weird thing. Confronted with the evidence of public outrage over these deals, the leaders of Goldman will often appear to be genuinely confused, scratching their heads and staring quizzically into the camera like they don't know what you're upset about. It's not an act. There have been a lot of greedy financiers and banks in history, but what makes Goldman stand out is its truly bizarre cultist/religious belief in the rightness of what it does.

The point was driven home in England last year, when Goldman's international adviser, sounding exactly like a character in Atlas Shrugged, told an audience at St Paul's Cathedral that "The injunction of Jesus to love others as ourselves is an endorsement of self-interest". A few weeks later, Goldman CEO Lloyd Blankfein told the Times that he was doing "God's work".

Even if he stands to make a buck at it, even your average used-car salesman won't sell some working father a car with wobbly brakes, then buy life insurance policies on that customer and his kids. But this is done almost as a matter of routine in the financial services industry, where the attitude after the inevitable pileup would be that that family was dumb for getting into the car in the first place. Caveat emptor, dude!

People have to understand this Randian mindset is now ingrained in the American character. You have to live here to see it. There's a hatred toward "moochers" and "parasites" – the Tea Party movement, which is mainly a bunch of pissed off suburban white people whining about minorities consuming social services, describes the battle as being between "water-carriers" and "water-drinkers". And regulation of any kind is deeply resisted, even after a disaster as sweeping as the 2008 crash.

This debate is going to be crystallised in the Goldman case. Much of America is going to reflexively insist that Goldman's only crime was being smarter and better at making money than IKB and ABN-Amro, and that the intrusive, meddling government (in the American narrative, always the bad guy!) should get off Goldman's Armani-clad back. Another side is going to argue that Goldman winning this case would be a rebuke to the whole idea of civilisation – which, after all, is really just a collective decision by all of us not to screw each other over even when we can. It's an important moment in the history of modern global capitalism: whether or not to move forward into a world of greed without limits.

Matt Taibbi is a writer for Rolling Stone.

Rolling Stone [home page](#)

The Silver Bear Cafe [home page](#)

Fix the Economy, Not Wall Street

Why regulate a broken system when we can build a better one? Welcome to New Economy 101.

by David Korten [article link](#)

Apr 28, 2010

YES! Magazine [home page](#)

David Korten's Blog [blog home](#)

FRAUDONOMICS: 10 FUN FRAUD FACTS

By Mark Ames [article link](#)

CORRUPTION PORN / APRIL 28, 2010

The Exiled [home page](#)

TAKE ACTION

Thousands Rally in New York for Showdown with Wall St.

Over 10,000 protesters gathered in New York's financial district to demand financial reform.

By Alexander Zaitchik [article link](#)

April 30, 2010 AlterNet

AlterNet [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:44 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Michael Snyder: Megabanks

Megabanks: The Banking Oligarchy That Controls Assets Equivalent to 60% of America's GNP

By Michael Snyder - BLN Contributing Writer [article link](#) [article link](#)

Published on 04-28-2010 Commentary-Analysis

Today financial power is being concentrated in the hands of fewer and fewer individuals. In fact, the six biggest banks in the United States now possess assets equivalent to 60 percent of America's gross national product. Back in the 1990s that figure was less than 20 percent. These six banks - Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo - literally dictate what goes on in the U.S. banking industry. These entities are the poster children

for "too big to fail", and they donate massive amounts of cash to the campaigns of both Republicans and Democrats to ensure that they will continue to receive favorable treatment. The vast majority of Americans have had a banking account, a credit card and/or a mortgage with one of these institutions at some point. If they acted in concert, these six banks could literally bring down the U.S. economy overnight if they wanted to. Together with the Federal Reserve, these six banks represent the real financial power in America. They are the 800 pound gorilla in the room that influences nearly every major financial deal that gets done and virtually every major political decision that gets made. As the last couple of years have demonstrated, top politicians from both parties (John McCain and Barack Obama for example) will instantly jump into action and start advocating that the U.S. government spend billions upon billions of dollars when the interests of these behemoths are threatened. The frightening thing is that the power of these megabanks is growing at a frightening pace. As dozens upon dozens of smaller U.S. banks are "allowed to fail", they either go out of existence or the Fed's actually encourage these smaller banks to sell themselves to one of the big sharks. In either event, the banking power in the United States becomes further consolidated in the hands of the megabanks.

Bill Moyers recently interviewed Simon Johnson and James Kwak, the authors of a new book entitled [13 Bankers: The Wall St. Takeover and the Next Financial Meltdown](#). During that interview Kwak described to Moyers just how explosive the growth of the power of these megabanks has been....

Bill Moyers: And you write that they control 60 percent of our gross national product?

James Kwak: They have assets equivalent to 60 percent of our gross national product. And to put this in perspective, in the mid-1990s, these six banks or their predecessors, since there have been a lot of mergers, had less than 20 percent. Their assets were less than 20 percent of the gross national product.

Does it alarm you that the banking elite have accumulated such a large amount of financial power?

It should. These institutions have the power to wreck entire economies. Just consider what happened in Greece lately. Now, it is being alleged that the megabanks are ripping off American cities [with the same kinds of predatory deals](#) that brought down the financial system in Greece.

And that is what these megabanks are.

They are predators.

In fact, a very revealing article in [Rolling Stone](#) (Inside The Great American Bubble Machine) described Goldman Sachs this way....

The first thing you need to know about Goldman Sachs is that it's everywhere. The world's most powerful investment bank is a great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity, relentlessly jamming its blood funnel into anything that smells like money.

Unfortunately, they may have actually been understating things a bit.

These megabanks have rigged the game so that the wealth of the nation is slowly transferred from us to themselves and to the international financial interests that control them.

They can make money if the markets are going up, and they can make money if the markets are going down.

For example, in a newly released email from the height of the housing crash, the CEO of Goldman Sachs bragged that his firm ["made more than we lost"](#) by betting against the housing market.

Thankfully the SEC [is starting to look into the fraud](#) that Goldman Sachs committed during this time period, but the truth is that Goldman is not likely to receive any more than a slap on the wrist for what it has done.

They are way too big, way too powerful and have too many friends in high places for them to get into any real trouble.

For example, it has come out that Barack Obama [does not intend](#) to return any of the campaign contributions that he received from Goldman Sachs. And surely they will be glad to continue to pour big money into his political coffers.

So where does that leave the rest of us?

Well, the rest of us can expect higher taxes and a lower standard of living according to the IMF. The IMF (which has deep connections to these megabanks) says that the party is "over" for nations that have been enjoying the good life. In a recent article, [The Washington Post](#) summarized the message that the IMF is trying to communicate through their recent policy papers....

To keep the global economy on track, people in the United States and the rest of the developed world need to work longer before retiring, pay higher taxes and expect less from government. And the cheap imports lining the shelves of mega-chains such as Wal-Mart and Target? They need to be more expensive.

So are you ready to work longer, pay higher taxes, expect less from government and have a lower standard of living?

That is what the IMF says we are all going to be facing in the years ahead.

We are all going to financially suffer as the megabanks continue to thrive and consolidate power.

Isn't that wonderful?

You say you don't like that so much?

Well, good luck taking on the 800 pound gorilla.

BlackListedNews [home page](#)

The Economic Collapse [home page](#)

Lawmakers to Holder: Goldman, other firms aren't 'too big for jail'

By Greg Gordon [article link](#)

Posted on Wednesday, April 28, 2010 | McClatchy Newspapers

McClatchy [home page](#)

Revolving Door From Capitol Hill to Big Banks

By Paul Blumenthal [article link](#)

04/28/10 Sunlight Foundation Blog

Sunlight Foundation [blog home](#)

Sunlight Foundation [home page](#)

Teapot Tempest Over Goldman Sachs

The Prospects for Real Financial Reform Remain Remote

By ANDREW COCKBURN [article link](#)

April 29, 2010

CounterPunch [home page](#)

Banks Bailed Out By American Taxpayers Are Paying Us Back By Shorting Our States and Cities

by Washington's Blog [article link](#)

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2010

Washington's Blog [blog home](#)

Worse Than the Robber Barons: Wall Street Amoralism Takes on a False Calvinist Hue

By Peter Laarman [article link](#)

April 28, 2010

Religion Dispatches [home page](#)

It Takes Power to Control Power

By Joe Conason [article link](#)

Posted on Apr 28, 2010 truthdig reports

truthdig [home page](#)

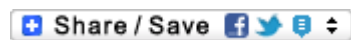
"This Sucker Could Go Down"

by James Howard Kunstler [article link](#)

04.28.10

Silver Bear Cafe [home page](#)

James Howard Kunstler [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:05 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Jerry Mazza: The Big Six Banks

The Big Six Banks are Shorting the American Dream

By Jerry Mazza [article link](#)

April 28, 2010

The Big Six investment banks, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, JP Morgan Chase, Citigroup, Bank of America and Wells Fargo, are “shorting the American Dream,” according to economist Simon Johnson and entrepreneur James Kwak in an interview on April 16, [“Financial Regulation and Regulatory Capture” on Bill Moyers Journal](#). Here’s a summary of the big and important ideas and issues on the table.

First, Simon Johnson is a former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund, now teaching at MIT’s Sloan School of Management. James Kwak is a former management consultant at McKinsey & company, co-founder of the successful software company, Guidewire, and presently studying law at Yale Law School. Together Johnson and Kwak run the economic website BaselineScenario.com. To boot, they have written a new best seller, 13 Bankers: The Wall Street Takeover and the Next Financial Meltdown.

The big ideas that emerge from the title of their interview are that financial regulators are not enough to deal with the Big Six banks, whose employees are very smart people, very hungry for financial opportunity, legit or not legit. Thus, very often regulators are sucked into large investment banks or affiliated financial institutions like the distinguished Michael Oxley, co-author of the Sarbanes Oxley Act. Oxley has joined the financial industry, along with some 124 former other members of Congress and their aides.

To Oxley’s undying credit, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act grew out of the debacle of Enron and made it a law that CEOs and other top managers were and are responsible for the policies and actions of their companies on their watch and can’t just shrug their shoulders, saying they didn’t know what was happening. What Johnson and Kwak are really calling for are more laws on the books that can safeguard against financial abuse.

Unfortunately, we have, as they point out, former Clinton Treasury Chief Robert Rubin now getting \$100 million a year to consult for Citibank and he can’t explain how the company came so incredibly close to financial collapse. Yet, when

Newsweek wanted someone of note to explain all this, the job was given to, guess who, Robert Rubin. Suddenly, he found religion?

Charles Prince, another former Citi CEO said: “Let me start by saying I’m sorry. I’m sorry that our management team, starting with me, like so many others, could not see the unprecedented market collapse that lay before me.” He must have seen it for years before that if he wasn’t blind or deaf, because it was reported on Internet news services at the very least, particularly Citi’s huge derivatives debt.

Both Rubin and Prince were accused by Democratic Chairman of the Bipartisan Financial Enquiry Committee Phil Angelides, “of either pulling the levers or being asleep at the switch.” This writer’s money is on pulling the levers.

Also, there is Washington Mutual’s CEO Dave Beck appearing before Senator Carl Levin, investigating how so many bad loans were made at WaMu. After all, this was the biggest “meltdown belly-up of a major investment bank in US history.” Yet a blasé Beck said when asked what happened, “It’s a very real possibility that the loans that went out were better quality than Mr. Shaw laid out.” Levin rebutted, “And there’s a very real good possibility that they were exactly the quality that he laid out, right? Is that right?” Beck wavered, “That’s right.” A frustrated Levin answered, “Okay. And you don’t know and apparently you don’t care. And the trouble is you should have cared.” So it goes.

In keeping with Beck’s feigned ignorance, it’s interesting that the Johnson-Kwak interview aired the day before the NY Times broke the story [U.S. Accuses Goldman Sachs of Fraud](#). The short version of the article is that Goldman profited from the sale of collateralized debt obligations (CDOs) that were packaged with garbage loans and peddled to hedge funds and investors. This plan was the brainchild of Fabrice Tourre, a vice president at Goldman in London. The plan, cited in the SEC case as Abacus 2007-ACi, proved successful in having Wall Street hedge fund investors make a mountain of money on negative bets or “shorting,” betting on the bad loans to fail, which they did, thereby adding more disaster to the subprime lending market and helping to “short the American Dream,” that is, the market is not a level playing field for investors.

The follow-up Times article, [Top Goldman Leaders Said to Have Overseen Mortgage Unit](#), indicates that “Mr. Tourre was the only person named in the SEC. suit. But according to interviews with eight former Goldman employees, senior bank executives played a pivotal role in overseeing the mortgage unit just as the housing market began to go south. These people spoke on the condition that they not be named so as not to jeopardize business relationships or to anger executives at Goldman, viewed as the most powerful bank on Wall Street.

“According to these people, executives up to and including [Lloyd C. Blankfein](#), the chairman and chief executive, took an active role in overseeing the mortgage unit as the tremors in the housing market began to reverberate through the nation’s economy. It was Goldman’s top leadership, these people say, that finally ended the dispute on the mortgage desk by siding with those who, like Mr. Tourre and Mr. Egol, believed home prices would decline . . .”

The reason for extending the chain of responsibility up to the top is precisely to invoke a law like the Sarbanes Oxley Act, so that Abacus is not seen as the random action of a greedy profiteer, which also occurs, according to Johnson and Kwak. Now, it is verified that Abacus was a corporate plan that had the blessings of the CEO and top management. Let’s see what shakes out of this or what dodges are made.

Another major problem that Johnson and Kwak see is that the six megabanks have become a financial oligarchy. In fact, their aggregate assets equal some 63 percent of GDP. Back in the 1990s, adjusted for inflation, their assets equated to less than 20 percent of GDP. This rise in financial power gives them the notion that they can go out and take more and more risks. After all, the taxpayer and Uncle Sam will be willing to bail them out if they fail. The Fed lending window is wide open to them. It encourages them to “distort the system . . . change the rules of the game to favor themselves. To that end, they spend a million dollars a day lobbying against reforms to fix the financial system.”

As asset power increases, the oligarchy’s power to twist arms in Congress increases. In fact, Johnson claims “the big banks got stronger as a result of the bailout . . . They’re turning that increased economic clout into more political power. And

they're using the political power to go out and take the same sort of risks that got us into disaster in September 2008," when Lehman Brothers was allowed to fail and shook the international banking system.

The truth is Citibank alone, according to Johnson and Kwak, controls some \$12.5 trillion in assets, so it can't be allowed to fail without causing another catastrophe à la Lehman Brothers. Johnson and Kwak's idea is to have the banks break themselves down into entities with no more than a \$100 billion cap each. That makes them and the other mega-banks small enough to fail. This is really a key point. And one wonders why the Glass-Steagall Act hasn't been reinstituted as promised to help facilitate this division for break-down purposes.

Included in the "too big to fail" discussion were the quasi-government/Wall Street Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac mortgage lenders, which literally "captured Congress" with their financial lobbying in the 1990s, arguing for rights to take on improper risk. And it was the Republicans who "called them on that." Unfortunately, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson in 2008, confronted with the multiple "too big to fail" banks, as Johnson points out, "was right. If you let JPMorgan Chase or Goldman Sachs fail, the consequences would have been devastating, because they are so big. It's a Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac structure come to Wall Street, come to the top guys on Wall Street. And our Republican colleagues and friends should recognize this, they should acknowledge it. And then we can all fix it together."

On the other hand, Johnson and Kwak's whole point is also that we can't allow these bailouts to continue. We have to fix the system with a series of laws that prevent the next bubble, the mindless creation of toxic lending, and the imminent failure of banks that have wrongly become "too big to fail." We can't institutionalize the corruption that leads to financial failure. We have to legislate against it. Or the economy will collapse.

To that point, Johnson and Kwak single out Magnetar, "a hedge fund named after a neutron star that spews deadly radiation across the galaxies," if you can believe that weirdness. "Magnetar worked with American banks to create toxic CDOs, securities backed by subprime mortgages that managers knew were bad. Magnetar took information and bet against the same investments which they recommended to buyers. Selling short and making a fortune." This process is as deadly as radiation and a repetitive event in contemporary finance. It's got to go.

Another scam pointed out by Johnson and Kwak is Goldman bailing out Greece with an initial amount of money and then stashing that debt paper in a secret Cayman account. Then it sold a second round of debt to investors, not divulging the first debt, and how deep the total truly was. Then it bet against Greece paying it off and once again made a fortune off of investor ignorance and Greece's bad luck. These are not accidents. These are planned strategies to defraud, to look for the loopholes to cheat, to short the American Dream.

Also, a not so accidental complexity in procedures, management, sheer numbers of employees and divisions in huge financial companies makes for rogue traders who seek loopholes to create questionable if not illegal offerings, even at their company's expense. The moral barometer here is at its nadir.

Moyers pointed out "that even when JPMorgan Chase lost \$880 million [in] one of these whacky obscure deals . . . the executives still paid themselves millions of dollars in up-front fees. It exploded and personally they still made money." This is a classic case of top executives cheating their own company, as Enron's cheating their own employees out of retirement funds, walking away with hundreds of millions, and later with jail sentences. There is a fundamental cynicism in the financial community that their ilk is above the law, that they are smartest guys in the room, and not subject to the suckers' rules.

This kind of brashness is reminiscent of CEO Jamie Dimon who said of his company JPMorgan Chase in 2009 that "they had the best year in their history." That's because his company was "big and beautiful" and sucked up enough of the bailout dollars to land in the black. This is a guy who dines with President Obama, does lunch, and god knows what else, namely playing financial oligarch. Obama called him "a savvy businessman," but in this writer's opinion, he's a high level sleaze.

Yet it comes down to the lobbying dollars that help keeps this deadbeat oligarchy afloat and the lack sufficient of legislation like the Glass-Steagall Act from resurfacing to separate commercial banks from investment banks. Or to have a toothier Commodities Futures Modernization Act, which former Commodities Futures Trading Commission Chair [Brooksley Born wanted to protect against derivatives](#).

The act was gutted by Senator Phil Gramm with Clinton's blessings in 1999. The link above is to an article I wrote about Born's travails, the intimidations by Greenspan, Rubin, and particularly Larry Summers, who called her, saying he had 13 bankers in the room who all said that if she proceeded with her CFMA, the financial system would totally collapse. She subsequently resigned, having done all she could to protect her fellow citizens from these financial predators.

Johnson and Kwak remind us to remember that fighting this fight is a long-term job and not a quick fix. As Johnson points out, Teddy Roosevelt faced the bankers for a decade and brought Morgan in tow as FDR did his corps of bankers. Early on Andrew Jackson faced down the national bank. It will take a president with backbone and conviction to tell these guys what to do, rather than seeking "consensus" in lieu of courage. I also believe there are intelligent Republicans out there who see and know what's going on and need to act in unison with their Democratic counterparts.

Like the Marines, we need a few good men, maybe more than a few, to stand up and fight the Blankfeins, the Rubins, the Princes, etc. Kwak suggested that some people should go to jail for fraud. I'm for that, the more the merrier to make an example and save the financial system. Both Johnson and Kwak are practicing financial professionals who believe in the system, which can't be run with a totally unregulated free-market hand, but with laws that keep the playing field level.

As a closer, Moyers pointed to the Republican leader in Congress, Senator Mitch McConnell from Kentucky who was being taken to task by reporters recently for "attending a fundraiser with hedge funds and other Wall Street poobahs."

This came, as Johnson shredded a recent statement by McConnell: "He [McConnell] says let the biggest banks fail, go bankrupt, don't do anything, leave the situation as it is now and when they get in trouble, let them fail. If you do that, you'll have catastrophe. The bankruptcy system clearly and manifestly cannot deal with the failure of a complex, global, financial institution. And we have the evidence before us in what happened after Lehman Brothers failed. That was bankruptcy. It caused chaos around the world, Bill. That's what the Republicans are advocating. If we just leave things as they are and next time we'll take that chaos and we'll get a second Great Depression. We're arguing for reform. We're arguing for change. We're arguing for ways to make those biggest banks smaller and safer. If they were small enough to fail, that's a very different story. And that's a much safer place to be.

When Moyers asked, "What do these big six banks think about what Senator McConnell is saying?" Kwak nailed it: "Well, the big six banks don't want any reform at all, essentially. So, I think . . . there's some evidence that Senator McConnell has been talking to the big banks and to other people on Wall Street." So let's leave it at another regulatory capture.

Hopefully, you've gotten an idea of what a brilliant and important interview this was. See or read it for yourself, before your American Dream gets shorted again in a new financial collapse.

Jerry Mazza is a freelance writer and life-long resident of New York City. Reach him at gvmaz@verizon.net. His new book, "State Of Shock: Poems from 9/11 on" is available at www.jerrymazza.com.

Information Clearing House [home page](#)

Frauds And Scandals Follow The Collapse Of The Financial System

By Bob Chapman [article link](#) [article link](#)

April 28, 2010 "International Forecaster"

Information Clearing House [home page](#)

International Forecaster [home page](#)

How the SEC and Congress Can Bring Down Goldman Sachs and Expose the Financial Coup

By David DeGraw [article link](#)

April 28th, 2010 AmpedStatus Report

AmpedStatus [home page](#)

Protesters Launch Showdown With Monster Banks, Demand Wells Fargo End Predatory Lending

By Daniela Perdomo [article link](#)

April 27, 2010 AlterNet

Bank Local: Indie Businesses Embrace Move Your Money

By Stacy Mitchell [article link](#)

April 28, 2010 AlterNet

AlterNet [home page](#)

What Really Triggered the Financial Crisis?

The Shadow Banking System Blew Up

By MIKE WHITNEY [article link](#)

April 27, 2010

CounterPunch [home page](#)

Lottery Economy

by Paul Buchheit [article link](#)

April 27, 2010 CommonDreams.org

CommonDreams [home page](#)

Plunder or Enterprise: The World's Choice

by Thomas E. Woods, Jr. [article link](#)

April 28, 2010

LewRockwell [home page](#)

Financial Reform: The Final Con Game

by Joan Veon [article link](#)

04.27.10

The Silver Bear Cafe [home page](#)

Moyers/Kwak/Johnson: Is the U.S. at the Mercy of an Unstoppable Oligarchy?

Six Banks Control 60% of Gross National Product

By Bill Moyers [blog link](#) MMr

April 23, 2010 "Bill Moyers Journal"

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:33 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Joe Brewer: The Death of Self-Interest Fundamentalism

The Death of Self-Interest Fundamentalism

by: Joe Brewer [article link](#) [article link](#)

Tuesday 27 April 2010 Cognitive Policy Works

Self-interest fundamentalism was the economic religion of the 20th Century. We are now in the midst of an economic reformation on par with the Enlightenment as we enter the new millennium.

Have you noticed that a lot of people seem to think that appeals to self-interest lead to a moral and just society?

No, I'm not merely talking about economists. Self-interest evangelicals have been spreading the good news for decades in public policy programs, political science departments, and financial institutions too. Converts can be found in environmental organizations that tell us we'll save on our energy bills if only we change those light bulbs. And blind zealots run polling companies that deploy the doctrine of self-oriented rationalism when they tell us that the preferences of individuals exist in a meaningful way to be measured – with nary an inkling that the way polls are conducted might influence how people respond.

Is self-interest fundamentalism dying? Cracks are certainly spreading through its foundations, as I'll discuss in a moment. The more important questions we need to grapple with are whether *it should die away* and, if so, with *what should we replace it?* Consider your answers to these questions. I'll share some of mine below.

Yes, rationalist fundamentalism still has a stranglehold on society. It's meteoric rise to dominance goes all the way back to the nuclear arms race that poured truckloads of cash from public coffers into defense contractor piggy banks through the "game" of mutually assured destruction during the Cold War. We saw it clearly during the Vietnam War when "body counts" laid the foundation for an entire generation of video game players to score points by killing more enemies – never mind that we were slaughtering innumerable civilians.

And, of course, it was only a matter of time before schools fell under the knife of test-based bookkeeping to "hold students accountable" to rationalist ideals of performance measurement – at the expense of actual learning. A web of trans-national organizations have come into existence – the World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund, and World Bank being the best known – that push the ideology of self-interest into the center stage of world affairs.

Theory of Self-Interest: A Creation Story

How could an impoverished model of human-as-self-focused-calculating-machine have ever come into being? A common myth is that self-interest theories rose out of behavioral studies conducted by psychologists. A nice bedtime story perhaps, but it isn't true. Would you believe me if I told you the behavioral model underlying the global economy came, not from the human sciences, but from mathematics?

Back in the 1940's and 50's, a research center was created to explore fundamental issues of concern to the Air Force. This Research AND Development institute was aptly named the RAND Corporation. Within the high security walls of this military think tank, mathematicians developed abstract principles for nuclear strategy during the Cold War. In the midst of this particular, historically contingent environment – and motivated by concerns of defense contractors in the air combat arena – the notion of self-interested rational action was born. Proof positive that the most bizarre stories are found in the non-fiction section of your local library.

(If you'd like to read the full story, check out S.M. Amadae's [Rationalizing Capitalist Democracy: The Cold War Origins of Rational Choice Liberalism](#).)

So the birth place of modern market fundamentalism, in the guise of “rational choice theory”, was the military think tank that gave us the disastrous arms race. Untested and theoretical, it quickly spread throughout the highest levels of government during the tenure of Robert McNamara at the Department of Defense, then whipped through the economics departments of many prominent universities, spurred the creation of public policy analysis as a “scientific” field, and undergirded today’s global institutions of economic governance.

But things are starting to change.

Looking Forward: 21st Century Institutions

The first experimental studies of rational choice theory by behavioral scientists, principally Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky, showed that a foundational premise of the theory was wrong. (As a technical side point, they showed that preferences can be reversed by merely framing a question differently.) The “[prospect theory](#)” that arose through these experiments became the bedrock of a new field – behavioral economics – that has grown in prominence since its birth in the 1970’s.

Throughout the subsequent decades, researchers found more damning evidence against self-interest. Paul Slovic and his collaborators at [Decision Research](#) have systematically explored how risk perception influences our decisions in many ways that fly in the face of rational choice theory. Human beings depend on emotional cues to make decisions. And many of these cues are associative rather than based on inferences – thus they do not fit the paradigm of rationality presumed by rational choice theory. In fact, human beings cannot manage risk – especially in the highly complex social situations we often find ourselves in – when regions of our brains that process emotional information are damaged. Antonio Damasio sealed this argument in his 1994 book, [Descartes’ Error: Emotion, Reason and the Human Brain](#).

A new view of human reason is on the rise in academia. Unlike its predecessor, the new paradigm is profoundly based in the workings of our bodies. This “embodiment” view incorporates insights from computer science, linguistics, neuroscience, philosophy, psychology, and robotics. Its adherents include people like Gilles Fauconnier, Raymond Gibbs, Mark Johnson, George Lakoff, Eleanor Rosch, Mark Turner, and Drew Westen.

Arising with this new view is a profound shift in how we understand human thought and behavior. Just as the institutions of yesteryear grew out of the old paradigm, research in the cognitive sciences beckons us to think differently about the institutions of tomorrow.

This is where I do my work.

I’ve seen how methods like cost-benefit analysis fail utterly when applied to environmental challenges. Future costs are weighed against current gains in a false choice between short-term profit seeking and long-term sustainability. I’ve also watched as public policies built on outdated performance measures undermine that which they are meant to improve. A key example is the educational paradigm that gave us No Child Left Behind – high-stakes testing – which [flies in the face](#) of what our teachers know about real learning. Any effort to treat moral pursuits – like making the world safe for future generations or educating a child – will demand broader measures of success than numbers alone can describe.

In a [previous article](#), I described some things we’ll need our institutions to do in the 21st Century:

In a world based on this new perspective, things work very differently:

* Citizens recognize fear-inducing news reports intended to inflate manufactured risks and hide awareness of genuine threats, thereby reducing the effectiveness of these manipulative tactics.

* Journalists understand the consequences of how facts are presented and beliefs are promoted in the structure of news reporting, resulting in coverage that enhances—rather than erodes—the democratic process.

* Policy-makers abandon contrived and faulty presumptions about “economic rational actors” and instead craft solutions to societal challenges that improve the lives of real people through deeper insights into the human condition, culminating in robust policies that stand the test of time.

* Advocates articulate clear and compelling calls to action that resonate deeply with the values of the citizenry, thereby promoting greater civic engagement and community empowerment.

What’s more, we’ll need to build a new foundation for our economic institutions. A recent example shows that the old approach is inadequate. Amartya Sen and Joseph Stiglitz, two Nobel prize winning economists, led a commission to improve upon the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) when measuring economic well-being. They spent most of the 79 pages of their [personal reflections \(pdf\)](#) describing a long history of criticisms that show GDP to be grossly inadequate. Yet, very little of substance was offered to take its place.

What does it mean that a group of leading economists don’t know how to measure economic progress? [In the words of Sen](#), when talking about the limits of rational choice theory:

It seems easy to accept that rationality involves many features that cannot be summarized in terms of some straightforward formula, such as binary consistency. But this recognition does not immediately lead to alternative characterizations that might be regarded as satisfactory, even though the inadequacies of the traditional assumptions of rational behavior standardly used in economic theory have become hard to deny.

This tells us that many economists recognize the limitations of rational choice, but they don’t have ready-made alternatives. Yet the old tools are well-known and ready for use so they pick them up again and again. They are looking for something better, but haven’t found it yet.

I’d like to offer that the alternatives are starting to emerge in the unexpected corner of academia where researchers study the human mind. New tools cannot be found so long as the old paradigm of human nature remains. My colleagues and I are in the process of developing these new tools. What does our paradigm look like? Here are the key features:

* **Human beings are profoundly social.** We are wired for empathy and we learn how to act in the world through interactions with other human beings and the natural world;

* **Human reason is embodied.** We think and act through the interplay of brain, body, and environment. Emotions are vital to effective decision-making. And our understandings are shaped by the contexts we operate in;

* **Human thought is evaluative.** We interpret the world through core values, our sense of identity, and conceptual models for how we believe the world works. There’s no such thing as “an objective world” when dealing with social and political issues because we are co-creators of the realities we experience.

Each of these features tells us something about how a human-based economy should work. It should recognize the value of community in our dealings with one another. It should be designed around our biological needs for survival in a world where things like potable water and fossil fuels are becoming limited and the planetary climate system has been disrupted in a manner that threatens us all. And it should acknowledge that interpretations of human well-being are perpetually contested by competing perspectives.

Yes, it is time to let self-interest fundamentalism go the way of monarchy and feudalism. It may not go silently into the night, but the end is nigh. Pretty soon we will have laid the foundation for a sustainable future – both ecologically and financially. In order to do so, we’ll have to acknowledge how human beings actually are instead of how theorists engaged in military strategy presumed us to be 60 years ago.

This is a huge undertaking. It won’t be completed overnight. Nor will it be the sole effort of a few visionary thinkers. But it must start somewhere. My suggestion is that you’ll see it starting to take shape at the boundary between cognitive science and the world of expert practitioners at all levels of governance.

Look there and you'll probably find me too.

truthout [home page](#)

Cognitive Policy Works [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:47 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Ron Paul: Socialism vs Corporatism

Socialism vs Corporatism

by Ron Paul [article link](#)

April 27, 2010 LewRockwell

Lately many have characterized this administration as socialist, or having strong socialist leanings. I differ with this characterization. This is not to say Mr. Obama believes in free-markets by any means. On the contrary, he has done and said much that demonstrates his fundamental misunderstanding and hostility towards the truly free market. But a closer, honest examination of his policies and actions in office reveals that, much like the previous administration, he is very much a corporatist. This in many ways can be more insidious and worse than being an outright socialist.

Socialism is a system where the government directly owns and manages businesses. Corporatism is a system where businesses are nominally in private hands, but are in fact controlled by the government. In a corporatist state, government officials often act in collusion with their favored business interests to design policies that give those interests a monopoly position, to the detriment of both competitors and consumers.

A careful examination of the policies pursued by the Obama administration and his allies in Congress shows that their agenda is corporatist. For example, the health care bill that recently passed does not establish a Canadian-style government-run single-payer health care system. Instead, it relies on mandates forcing every American to purchase private health insurance or pay a fine. It also includes subsidies for low-income Americans and government-run health care “exchanges.” Contrary to the claims of the proponents of the health care bill, large insurance and pharmaceutical companies were enthusiastic supporters of many provisions of this legislation because they knew in the end their bottom lines would be enriched by Obamacare.

Similarly, Obama's “cap-and-trade” legislation provides subsidies and special privileges to large businesses that engage in “carbon trading.” This is why large corporations, such as General Electric support cap-and-trade.

To call the President a corporatist is not to soft-pedal criticism of his administration. It is merely a more accurate description of the President's agenda.

When he is called a socialist, the President and his defenders can easily deflect that charge by pointing out that the historical meaning of socialism is government ownership of industry; under the President's policies, industry remains in nominally private hands. Using the more accurate term – corporatism – forces the President to defend his policies that increase government control of private industries and expand de facto subsidies to big businesses. This also promotes the understanding that though the current system may not be pure socialism, neither is it free-market since government controls the private sector through taxes, regulations, and subsidies, and has done so for decades.

Using precise terms can prevent future statisticians from successfully blaming the inevitable failure of their programs on the remnants of the free market that are still allowed to exist. We must not allow the disastrous results of corporatism to be ascribed incorrectly to free market capitalism or used as a justification for more government expansion. Most importantly, we must learn what freedom really is and educate others on how infringements on our economic liberties caused our economic woes in the first place. Government is the problem; it cannot be the solution.

Dr. Ron Paul is a Republican member of Congress from Texas.

LewRockwell [The Ron Paul File](#)

LewRockwell [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:44 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Chris Hedges: The New Secessionists

The New Secessionists

by Chris Hedges [article link](#) [article link](#)

Published on Monday, April 26, 2010 by TruthDig.com

Acts of rebellion which promote moral and political change must be nonviolent. And one of the most potent nonviolent alternatives in the country, which defies the corporate state and calls for an end to imperial wars, is the secessionist movement bubbling up in some two dozen states including Vermont, Texas, Alaska and Hawaii. These movements do not always embrace liberal values. Most of the groups in the South champion a “neo-Confederacy” and are often exclusively male and white. Secessionists, who call for statewide referendums to secede, do not advocate the use of force. It is unclear, however, if some will turn to force if the federal structure ever denies them independence.

These groups at least grasp that the old divisions between liberals and conservatives are obsolete and meaningless. They understand that corporations have carried out a coup d’état. They recognize that our permanent war economy and costly and futile imperial wars are unsustainable and they demand that we take popular action to prevent citizens from being further impoverished and robbed by Wall Street speculators and corporations.

“The defining characteristic of the Second Vermont Republic is that there are two enemies, the United States government and corporate America,” Thomas Naylor, who founded Vermont’s secessionist movement, told me when I reached him by phone at his home 10 miles south of Burlington. “One owns the other one. We are not like the tea party. The underlying premise of the tea party movement is that the system is fixable.”

Naylor rattles off the stark indicators of the nation’s decline, noting that the United States stands near the bottom among industrialized countries in voter turnout, last in health care, last in education and highest in homicide rates, mortality, STDs among juveniles, youth pregnancy, abortion and divorce. The nation, he notes grimly, has trillions in deficits it can never repay, is beset by staggering income disparities, has destroyed its manufacturing base and is the planet’s most egregious polluter and greediest consumer of fossil fuels. With some 40 million Americans living in poverty, tens of millions more in a category called “near poverty” and a permanent underclass trapped by a real unemployment rate of [17 percent](#), there is ample tinder for internal combustion. If we do not undertake a dramatic reversal soon, he asserts, the country and the global environment will implode with catastrophic consequences.

The secessionist movement is gaining ground in several states, especially Texas, where elected officials increasingly have to contend with secessionist sentiments.

“Our membership has grown tremendously since the bailouts, since the tail end of the Bush administration,” said Daniel Miller, the leader of the [Texas Nationalist Movement](#), when I spoke with him by telephone from his home in the small town of Nederland, Texas. “There is a feeling in Texas that we are being spent into oblivion. We are operating as the cash cow for the states that cannot manage their budgets. With this Congress, Texas has been squarely in their cross hairs, from cap and trade to the alien transfer and exit program. So many legislative pieces coming down the pike are offensive to people here in Texas. The sentiment for independence here is very high. The sentiment inside the Legislature and state capital is one of guarded optimism. There are scores of folks within state government who are supportive of what we are doing, although there is a need to see the public support in a more tangible way. This is why we launched our Let Texas Decide petition drive. We intend to deliver over a million signatures on the opening day of the [state legislative] session on Jan. 11, 2011.”

Miller, like Naylor, expects many in the tea party to migrate to secessionist movements once they realize that they cannot alter the structure or power of the corporate state through electoral politics. Polls in Texas show the secessionists have support from about 35 percent of the state's population, and Vermont is not far behind.

Naylor, who taught economics at Duke University for 30 years, is, along with Kirkpatrick Sale and Donald Livingston, one of the intellectual godfathers of the secessionist movement. His writing can be found on [The Second Vermont Republic](#) website, on the website [Secession News](#) and in postings on the [Middlebury Institute](#) website. Naylor first proposed secession in his 1997 book "Downsizing the USA." He comes out of the "small is beautiful" movement, as does Sale. Naylor lives with his wife in the Vermont village of Charlotte.

The Second Vermont Republic arose from the statewide anti-war protests in 2003. It embraces a left-wing populism that makes it unique among the national movements, which usually veer more toward Ron Paul libertarianism. The Vermont movement, like the Texas and Alaska movements, is well organized. It has a bimonthly newspaper called The Vermont Commons, which champions sustainable agriculture and energy supplies based on wind and water, and calls for locally owned banks which will open lines of credit to their communities. Dennis Steele, who is campaigning for governor as a secessionist, runs Radio Free Vermont, which gives a venue to Vermont musicians and groups as well as being a voice of the movement. Vermont, like Texas, was an independent republic, but on March 4, 1791, voted to enter the union. Supporters of the Second Vermont Republic commemorate the anniversary by holding a mock funeral procession through the state capital, Montpelier, with a casket marked "Vermont." Secessionist candidates in Vermont are currently running for governor, lieutenant governor, eight Senate seats and two House seats.

"The movement, at its core, is anti-authoritarian," said Sale, who works closely with Naylor and spoke with me from his home in Charleston, S.C. "It includes those who are libertarians and those who are on the anarchic community side. In traditional terms these people are left and right, but they have come very close together in their anti-authoritarianism. Left and right no longer have meaning."

The movement correctly views the corporate state as a force that has so corrupted the economy, as well as the electoral and judicial process, that it cannot be defeated through traditional routes. It also knows that the corporate state, which looks at the natural world and human beings as commodities to be exploited until exhaustion or collapse occurs, is rapidly cannibalizing the nation and pushing the planet toward irrevocable crisis. And it argues that the corporate state can be dismantled only through radical forms of nonviolent revolt and the dissolution of the United States. As an act of revolt it has many attributes.

"The only way we will ever stop these wars is when we stop paying for them," Naylor told me. "Vermont contributes about \$1.5 billion to the Pentagon's budget. Do we want to keep supporting these wars? If not, let's pull out. We have two objectives. The first is returning Vermont to its status as an independent republic. The second is the peaceful dissolution of the empire. I see these as being mutually complementary."

"The U.S. government has lost its moral authority," he went on. "It is corrupt to the core. It is owned, operated and controlled by Wall Street and corporate America. Its foreign policy is controlled by the Israeli lobby. It is unsustainable economically, socially, morally, militarily and environmentally. It is ungovernable and therefore unfixable. The question is, do you go down with the Titanic or do you seek other options?"

The leaders of the movement concede that sentiment still outstrips organization. There has not been a large proliferation of new groups, and a few old groups have folded because of a lack of leadership and support. But they insist that an increasing number of Americans are receptive to their ideas.

"The number of groups has not grown as I hoped it would when I started having congresses," said Sale, who addresses groups around the country. "But the number of people, of individuals, of websites and the number of libertarians who have come around has grown leaps and bounds. Many of those who were disappointed by the treatment of Ron Paul have come to the conclusion that they cannot have a Libertarian Party or a libertarian Republican. They are beginning to talk about secession."

“Secessionists have to be very careful not to be militaristic,” Sale warned. “This cannot be won by the gun. You can be emphatic in your secessionism, but it won’t happen by carrying guns. I don’t know what the tea party people think they are going to accomplish with guns. I guess it is a statement against the federal government and the fear that Obama is about to have gun control. It appears to be an assertion of individual rights. But the tea party people have not yet understood how they are going to get their view across. They still believe they can elect people, either Republicans or declared conservatives, to office in Washington and have an effect, as if you can escape the culture of Washington and the characteristics of government that has only gotten bigger and will only continue to get bigger. Electing people to the House and Senate is not going to change the characteristics of the system.”

The most pressing problem is that the movement harbors within its ranks Southern secessionists who wrap themselves in the Confederate flag, begin their meetings singing Dixie and celebrate the slave culture of the antebellum South. Secessionist groups such as the Southern National Congress and the more radical League of the South, which the Southern Poverty Law Center has labeled a “racist hate group,” openly embrace a return to uncontested white, male power. And this aspect of the movement deeply disturbs leaders such as Naylor, Sale and Miller.

What all these movements grasp, however, is that the American empire is over. It cannot be sustained. They understand that we must disengage peacefully, learn to speak with a new humility and live with a new simplicity, or see an economic collapse that could trigger a perverted Christian fascism, a ruthless police state and internecine violence.

“There are three or four possible scenarios that will bring down the empire,” Naylor said. “One possibility is a war with Iran. Another will see the Chinese pull the plug on Treasury bills. Even if these do not happen, the infrastructure of the country is decaying. This is a slower process. And they do not have the economy fixed. It is smoke and mirrors. This is why the price of gold is so high. The economy and the inability to stop the wars will alone be enough to bring us down. There is no escape now from our imperial overstretch.”

Copyright © 2010 Truthdig, L.L.C.

Chris Hedges writes a regular column for Truthdig.com . Hedges graduated from Harvard Divinity School and was for nearly two decades a foreign correspondent for The New York Times. He is the author of many books, including: [War Is A Force That Gives Us Meaning](#) , [What Every Person Should Know About War](#) , and [American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America](#). His most recent book is [Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle](#) .

truthdig [home page](#)

CommonDreams [home page](#)

Hell Yes, Secesh!

Don’t Let The Door Hit You On The Way Out

By David Michael Green [article link](#)

April 26, 2010 "Information Clearing House"

Information Clearing House [home page](#)

Renouncing American Citizenship

by Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr. [article link](#)

April 27, 2010

LewRockwell [home page](#)

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:33 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Sunday, April 25, 2010

[Peter Dreier: Showdown on Wall Street and K Street](#)

Showdown on Wall Street and K Street

by Peter Dreier [article link](#)

Sunday, April 25, 2010 CommonDreams

The shake-out of the American economy has left a handful of large banks at the pinnacle of the American corporate power structure. Next week, a coalition of major community organizations, unions, and religious groups will launch a campaign to challenge the economic and political influence of these mega-banks, beginning with a series of protests in San Francisco, Kansas City, Charlotte, Chicago, New York, and Washington, D.C.

As a growing number of banks have collapsed and been gobbled up by larger institutions, the four biggest commercial banks - the Bank of America, Wells Fargo, JP Morgan Chase, and Citigroup - now control about 40% of the nation's \$8 trillion in bank deposits. The two largest investment banks - Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley - hold one-third of the securities industry's \$4.4 trillion in assets.

"We want to use this moment and the rage that the American people have at banks as a way to get into the bigger issues of how Wall Street banks and corporate power have sabotaged the economy and enriched themselves," explained Stephen Lerner, a veteran organizer with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), who heads the union's campaign on financial reform.

The organizing campaign is spearheaded three community organizing networks - PICO, National People's Action (NPA), and the southeast region of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) - along with SEIU and the AFL-CIO. Organizers believe that the recent victory on health care reform will help propel a similar movement to take on banking giants.

"There's only one group of people in this country who are more hated than insurance companies," Lerner said. "That's the banks and Wall Street. This is not complicated. A bunch of rich, greedy oligarchs crashed the economy and got bailed out by tax payers."

A new public opinion poll sponsored by the nonpartisan Pew Economic Policy Group confirms Lerner's observation. A national survey conducted in March found that 68% of the public have an unfavorable opinion of big banks. Two-thirds of the public blame either the big banks or Congress' failure to regulate banks for the current financial crisis. Seventy-nine percent think it is important for Congress to take action quickly to reform Wall Street's abuses.

To help channel public outrage, the coalition's short-term goal is to push Congress to enact strong consumer protection regulations on the financial industry. Their intermediate goal is to pressure banks to stop the epidemic of foreclosures and renegotiate mortgages so owners can keep their homes. Their long-term goal is to limit the banking industry's political clout and its economic influence. They believe banking should be reorganized so it invests in good jobs, affordable housing, and environmentally-friendly businesses.

"The big banks shattered our economy and left workers and our communities to clean up the pieces. We've lost 8 million jobs, 1 out of every 8 mortgages is in default or foreclosure, and our cities, counties and states teeter on the edge of bankruptcy," said Heather Booth, executive director of Americans for Financial Reform, a coalition of unions, consumer, and community organizations. "Now the same banks that we bailed out with billions of tax dollars are pouring \$1.4 million per day into the Senate to stop real Wall Street reform."

"This is a fight about which side are you on -- Main Street or Wall Street? Main Street is organizing, forcing the politicians to decide whether they follow the money or support the American people," Booth noted.

Just as activists hope that voters will reward Congressmembers in November who supported health care reform, they want voters to re-elect politicians who support bank reform and punish politicians who are in the pockets of the bank lobby.

The protests will take place just as the Senate will be debating and voting on bank reform legislation. Progressive Democrats want the bill to include strong consumer protections, requirements that banks renegotiate mortgages for families facing foreclosure, limits on the size of banks, and new regulations against Wall Street gambling with default swaps and derivatives.

The banking industry and its business allies are pushing hard to weaken the proposed regulations. In the past few months, the major banks, along with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, have dramatically increased their lobbying activities and campaign donations to thwart reform. Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader, has become the banking industry's top ally, but every other Republican and some Democrats also oppose any reform that bank lobbyists don't like.

To rally public opinion, President Barack Obama gave a speech Thursday at Cooper Union in New York, close to Wall Street, and insisted that Congress needed to rein in the risky practices that led to the financial crisis and the recession. He criticized the "battalions of financial industry lobbyists descending on Capitol Hill, as firms spend millions to influence the outcome of this debate."

"It is essential that we learn from the lessons of this crisis, so we don't doom ourselves to repeat it," Obama said. "And make no mistake: That is exactly what will happen if we allow this moment to pass. And that's an outcome that is unacceptable to me, and it's unacceptable to you, the American people."

"Unless your business model depends on bilking people, there's little to fear from these new rules," Obama said to an audience of 700 people that included Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein and executives from JP Morgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, Bank of America, and other financial powerhouses.

"I want to urge you to join us, instead of fighting us in this effort, I'm here because I believe that these reforms are, in the end, not only in the best interest of our country, but in the best interest of the financial sector."

For the activists, the battle to overhaul federal banking regulations is one part of a broader strategy. "We have one eye on winning significant financial reform now and one eye on building a movement for corporate accountability," explained George Goehl, executive director of NPA, which has 25 community organizing affiliates in 14 states.

On Tuesday, April 27, organizers expect more than a thousand consumers, union members, and clergy to march through downtown San Francisco to Wells Fargo's annual shareholder meeting at the Merchants Exchange Building. Some of the protesters who have purchased Wells Fargo stock will confront the board of directors with a list of demands. On that day in Kansas City, family farmers, retirees, veterans and union members from Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa will march through that city's financial district to the Bank of America, an action that organizers are calling "showdown in the heartland."

The following day in Charlotte, N.C., veterans, clergy, and working families hurt by foreclosures and lay-offs will rally at the First United Presbyterian Church and then, proxies in hand, march to Bank of America's annual shareholder meeting at Belk Theater, while in Chicago, unions, community groups, and faith-based activists will march to the corporate offices of Goldman Sachs, whose outrageous executive bonuses, illegal practices, and political influence-peddling have made it the poster child for public anger against big banks. (Last week the Securities and Exchange Commission accused Goldman Sachs of defrauding investors). NPA started the ball rolling last month by announcing and organizing the April 29th march on Wall Street. Organizers now predict over 5,000 protesters, joined by AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka, will march on Thursday.

The protest actions will culminate in three-day "Showdown on K Street" in Washington, D.C. from May 15 to 17. The DC mobilization will focus attention on the connections between the banking industry's political clout through its huge campaign contributions and lobbying warchest. It will include a series of protests at the offices of corporate lobby groups and members of Congress - Democrats and Republicans -- with close ties to the banking establishment.

The protestors have a list of demands for each bank. In San Francisco, for example, they'll insist that Wells Fargo CEO John Stumpf resign from the board of the Financial Services Roundtable, the powerful lobby group that represents the

nation's largest banks and which is using its muscle to thwart the proposed federal Consumer Financial Protection Agency, one of the top priorities of the Obama administration and Congressional Democrats.

The grassroots delegation will also ask Wells Fargo to stop rampant foreclosures and evictions of homeowners and tenants.

"Everyday Americans from all walks of life are going to be challenging banks like Wells Fargo to keep families in their homes, to stop predatory and payday lending, and to start investing to create jobs and rebuild our communities" explained Adam Kruggel, director of CCISCO, a PICO affiliate in northern California. "Wells Fargo was one of the biggest subprime lenders in the United States and it has modified less than 8% of the troubled mortgages eligible under the president's Making Home Affordable program. That is unacceptable. It has an awful track record of predatory lending, including offering payday loans to its own customers at annual interest rates of 240%."

The bank reform coalition hopes to popularize a "move the money" campaign to help channel public anger with the banking establishment. Drawing on the boycott tactics of the civil rights and labor movements, and the divestment efforts that helped dismantle apartheid in South Africa, the campaign is based on the idea that Americans should move their money from mega-banks that destroy jobs and communities to financial institutions that act more responsibly.

"Can you imagine what would happen if we could get the major labor unions and religious denominations, and even some local governments, foundations, and universities, to take their pension funds, endowments, and deposits out of banks that engage in abusive practices and into banks that support our families and communities?" asked Gerald Taylor, the southeast director for IAF, a community organizing network with seven chapters in North Carolina, including one in Charlotte, where the Bank of America is headquartered.

In addition to mobilizing for federal reform legislation and pushing banks to address the foreclosure crisis, the coalition wants to draw attention to the banks' responsibility for state and municipal budget crises.

"Cities and states are cutting vital services, and laying off teachers and other employees, because the banks crashed the economy and starved local and state government of the revenues they need," explained Gordon Whitman, director of public policy for PICO, which has 1,200 religious congregations as members in over 150 cities.

"The compensation bonus pool for the big six banks - over \$130 billion -- would solve the entire budget crisis for all the states," noted Lerner, the SEIU organizer.

Activists in different cities have been organizing people to push for municipal legislation to hold banks accountable for exacerbating local economic problems. In Oakland, for example, SEIU and several community groups have pressured the City Council to demand that banks renegotiate or cancel interest-rate swaps that cost the city \$5.2 million in fees. In Los Angeles, SEIU, LA Voice (a PICO affiliate), and the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (a new organization formed by former leaders and staff of ACORN) worked with City Council member Richard Alarcon on legislation to renegotiate swap deals on municipal bonds and would require the City to move its investments (including \$25 billion in pension funds and almost \$1 billion in deposits) from financial institutions that failed to cooperate with local, state and national foreclosure-prevention efforts.

At least five states have introduced legislation to explore how their deposits in banks can be used to guarantee reinvestment in their state and more responsible lending practices.

Grassroots organizing against the power of banks goes back to the agrarian Populist movement in the late 1800s. In the 1970s, community organizing against redlining - racial discrimination in mortgage lending and bank divestment from inner cities - led to passage of the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) in 1977, led by NPA. Over the past decade, ACORN, along with the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, the Center for Responsible Lending, and NPA, led the fight against predatory lending and the foreclosure epidemic. NPA is now mobilizing people in cities around the country to hold banks and bank regulators accountable. Two years ago, for example, NPA brought over 500 people to a protest at Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's house in Washington, D.C. Since then, NPA leaders have met with Bernanke three times, pushing him and his staff to toughen regulations on rip-off "pay day" lenders and to update the CRA.

The battle for bank reform has triggered new alliances. This is the first time that PICO, NPA, and IAF have worked together on a common campaign. And the recent involvement of the labor movement in the battle against Wall Street and the big banks injects additional political clout into the activist coalition.

"We need stronger reform of Wall Street, but we also need a new business model for banking," said PICO's Whitman. "We need to get back to the day when people could trust their banks and banks made their money by lending to homeowners and small businesses, not speculating in the Wall Street casino. We want to squeeze speculation out of the banking system. This is about rebuilding our communities and our economy."

More information about the activities in each city and the coalition's broader agenda can be found at: <http://showdowninamerica.org> and <http://www.ourmoneyourvalues.org>.

Peter Dreier is E.P. Clapp Distinguished Professor of Politics, and director of the Urban & Environmental Policy program, at Occidental College. He is coauthor of [Place Matters: Metropolitcs for the 21st Century](#) and [The Next Los Angeles: The Struggle for a Livable City](#). He writes regularly for the Los Angeles Times, The Nation, and American Prospect.

CommonDreams [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:21 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Moyers/Kwak/Johnson: Is the U.S. at the Mercy of an Unstoppable Oligarchy?

Moyers and economists James Kwak and Simon Johnson wonder whether the financial powers are more profitable, and more resistant to regulation than ever.

Six Banks Control 60% of Gross National Product

Is the U.S. at the Mercy of an Unstoppable Oligarchy?

By Bill Moyers [article link](#)

April 23, 2010 "Bill Moyers Journal"

So even if the Tea Party folks saw the light, what can ordinary Americans do?

That's the question I want to put to my guests, Simon Johnson and James Kwak. They have written this new book, 13 Bankers: The Wall St. Takeover and the Next Financial Meltdown. It's a must read - already a best seller -- and it couldn't have come at a better time. This book could change the debate over financial reform by tipping it in favor of the public.

Simon Johnson is a former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund. He now teaches at MIT's Sloan School of Management and is a Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

James Kwak is studying law at Yale Law School - a career he decided to pursue after working as a management consultant at McKinsey & Company and co-founding the successful software company, Guidewire. Together James Kwak and Simon Johnson run the indispensable economic website BaselineScenario.com

Welcome to you both.

Let me get to the blunt conclusion you reach in your book. You say that two years after the devastating financial crisis of '08 our country is still at the mercy of an oligarchy that is bigger, more profitable, and more resistant to regulation than ever. Correct?

Simon Johnson: Absolutely correct, Bill. The big banks became stronger as a result of the bailout. That may seem extraordinary, but it's really true. They're turning that increased economic clout into more political power. And they're using that political power to go out and take the same sort of risks that got us into disaster in September 2008.

Bill Moyers: And your definition of oligarchy is?

Simon Johnson: Oligarchy is just- it's a very simple, straightforward idea from Aristotle. It's political power based on economic power. And it's the rise of the banks in economic terms, which we document at length, that it'd turn into political power. And they then feed that back into more deregulation, more opportunities to go out and take reckless risks and-- and capture huge amounts of money.

Bill Moyers: And you say that these this oligarchy consists of six megabanks. What are the six banks?

James Kwak: They are Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo.

Bill Moyers: And you write that they control 60 percent of our gross national product?

James Kwak: They have assets equivalent to 60 percent of our gross national product. And to put this in perspective, in the mid-1990s, these six banks or their predecessors, since there have been a lot of mergers, had less than 20 percent. Their assets were less than 20 percent of the gross national product.

Bill Moyers: And what's the threat from an oligarchy of this size and scale?

Simon Johnson: They can distort the system, Bill. They can change the rules of the game to favor themselves. And unfortunately, the way it works in modern finance is when the rules favor you, you go out and you take a lot of risk. And you blow up from time to time, because it's not your problem. When it blows up, it's the taxpayer and it's the government that has to sort it out.

Bill Moyers: So, you're not kidding when you say it's an oligarchy?

James Kwak: Exactly. I think that in particular, we can see how the oligarchy has actually become more powerful in the last since the financial crisis. If we look at the way they've behaved in Washington. For example, they've been spending more than \$1 million per day lobbying Congress and fighting financial reform. I think that's for some time, the financial sector got its way in Washington through the power of ideology, through the power of persuasion. And in the last year and a half, we've seen the gloves come off. They are fighting as hard as they can to stop reform.

Simon Johnson: I know people react a little negatively when you use this term for the United States. But it means political power derived from economic power. That's what we're looking at here. It's disproportionate, it's unfair, it is very unproductive, by the way. Undermines business in this society. And it's an oligarchy like we see in other countries.

Bill Moyers: And you say they continue to hold the global economy hostage?

James Kwak: Exactly. Because what's happened- what we learned in 2008 were certain institutions are so big and so interconnected that if they were to fail, they would cause systemic shocks throughout the economy. That's essentially what happened in September 2008 when Lehman Brothers collapsed. And what's remarkable, and I think what essentially proves the point of our book is that almost two years later, nothing has changed.

Or the only thing that has changed is that these banks have gotten larger, more powerful, both economically and politically. And they've been flexing their muscles in Washington for the last year and a half. So Neal Wolin, the Deputy Treasury Secretary gave a blistering speech to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in which he said, look, the financial sector has been spending more than one million dollars per day lobbying against the reforms we need to fix the financial system. Now, Simon and I think those reforms that the Administration has proposed do not go far enough. But we think they're certainly better than nothing. What Wall Street wants is they want nothing. They want to stop this in its tracks and go back to where we were five years ago.

Simon Johnson: It's amazing, Bill. But this is this is politics and this is money. And you know, there's a ground game, which is campaign contributions, which are surging in. I'm sure on both sides of the aisle. And there's also the ideological space. It's amazing. The Chamber of Commerce that claims to represent the broad cross section of American business is siding with six big banks, who favor policies that are directly contrary to the interests of most of the membership of the Chamber of Commerce. And that's just not just me saying that. That's Neal Wolin. That's Treasury. That's the White House saying that now. Calling fortunately, they've come to the point where they're willing to call the Chamber of Commerce on that. But I don't know if that message is getting through to people.

James Kwak: You see what the bankers have done is they have taken a basic principle which is more or less true. Which is that free financial markets do enable money to go to the places where people need it. But on top of that, they've erected a system that is indescribably complex. And gives many opportunities to make money at the expense of their customers, at the expense of their counterparties. Even at the expense of their own employers. So, one of the things that has happened has been that Wall Street finance has become so complex and the internal systems of Wall Street banks has become so complex that if you are a smart banker, who is out to maximize your own income, you can find the loopholes in the system and you can exploit them, even if it means taking money from your own-- from your own company

Bill Moyers: You've been writing this week on your website-- about this hedge fund in Chicago that's made a lot of money. In effect, betting against the American Dream. What was that?

James Kwak: Magnetar is a hedge fund which means that other people gave them money to invest. And their job is to make as much money as possible. And these were the smart guys in the room. They saw that the system was broken. And they found a specific way to exploit it. And they knew that they could go for example, they could go to Wall Street banks and the banks would collaborate in making these extremely toxic securities. Because they knew what the bankers incentives were. They knew that the banker's incentives were to do the deal, to do the transaction, to get the fees up front. And they knew that there was nobody watching out for the investors. There was nobody watching out to make sure that securities they manufactured were actually good securities. But essentially what they were doing is they wanted to short the housing market. And they shorted the market in such a way that they actually made the problem worse, because what they did is they encouraged they tried to create these very toxic securities explicitly so that they could then short those securities. And that's why in a sense, they were they were shorting the American Dream. But what the real story of Magnetar, I think, is that they were exploiting a system that was deeply broken.

So, we like to think that the financial system we have in Wall Street are set up so that as people try to make lots of money they are they are indirectly helping the economy by making sure their capital goes where it's needed most. What the Magnetar story shows us that this is a casino, where you can make money you can make money exploiting the weaknesses in the casino. And it has nothing to do with the American Dream. It has nothing to do with making sure that capital goes to the places where it's needed most. I have to say that we owe a great debt to "ProPublica" and "Planet Money" and "This American Life" for uncovering this story

Bill Moyers: Public radio's excellent program, "This American Life", did a terrific broadcast on this subject, based upon the ProPublica investigation that you talked about. And there's a song in it that I have to play for the two of you and for my audience. Take a listen.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Step one. You write a check for 10 million dollars. Hand the check to a Wall Street bank, and ask them to make us a CDO. Step two: they create the CDO, using risky stuff, very risky stuff, extremely risky stuff. Step three: other investors commit hundreds of millions of dollars to the CDO. Step four: we bet against the CDO, using a credit default swap. Step five: the housing market crashes. The CDO's value goes to zero, our bet pays off and we make hundreds of millions of dollars and before you can say step six, we're rich! We're going to bet against the American Dream, we're going to be on the winning team, purchase risky debt on a massive scale. Then place a bet that the debt will fail. Hundreds of millions for Magnetar, the economy collapsing like a dying star. No one will know till it's on NPR, and who cares? It's time to hit the town, this sucker could go down. The housing market's losing steam. And all we got to do to make our dreams come true is bet against the American Dream!

Bill Moyers: You're smiling, James, but is it really that funny?

James Kwak: Well for decades, we've been told that Wall Street and financial innovation were promoting the American Dream. And what they've I think what the show and the song have really hit the hit the nail on is that in fact, you can make even more money betting against the American Dream. And that's the kind of system we have today.

Simon Johnson: My bumper sticker from this and I hope it does become a bumper sticker is, "Trust me, I'm a banker."

I mean, you need to break through there's a level of progress here, Bill. Which is when people can laugh about it. When people can break it down into pieces. When you've got the 60-second version. And you can hammer that. And people understand it. Then you're starting to fight back. This is about ideology. This is about belief. This is about these guys are smart. These guys are well paid. So they must know what they're doing. And that's wrong.

Bill Moyers: You wrote on your website this week about how JPMorgan Chase lost \$880 million on one of these kind of whacky obscure deals? But the executives still paid themselves millions of dollars in up front fees. And you conclude that bankers placed a ticking bomb on their own bank balance sheet. It exploded and personally they still made money.

James Kwak: Exactly. Because this is an example so, this is from the "ProPublica" investigation of Magnetar. essentially the bankers at JPMorgan Chase involved in the transaction created a new CDO. A new collateralized debt obligation. Which was very, very toxic. And either they knew at the time that it was toxic, or they should have known, I have no way of knowing. JPMorgan decided to hold onto most of this toxic product they-- they had built. A billion dollars worth of toxic product. And then when the market collapsed, it turned out they lost \$880 million on that position.

So, if we think about it, there are really two possibilities here. The bankers involved in the transaction either really thought that this was a good product and a good investment, in which case they're incompetent. Or they had- they may have doubts, they may have thought it was toxic, but they knew that the way the internal systems at JPMorgan Chase worked, they could get the fees front, they could get bonuses based on those fees, and leave the bomb for later.

Bill Moyers: Somebody wrote on your blog this week, "If I were to buy an old house. Make some cosmetic improvements that mask an underlying rot. Got my insurance company to write an exorbitant homeowners policy exceeding any leans against the property. Then burned it down, wouldn't that be fraud?" Did you answer this guy?

James Kwak: I haven't. That would

Bill Moyers: Would you?

James Kwak: That would be fraud.

Bill Moyers: That would be fraud. So, explain to me how you manage to lose \$880 million on your own company's money to make a quick buck for yourself and you get away with it?

James Kwak: Well, I think that there are laws in this area. So, for any securities, there has to be-- for this type of security, there has to be a document which explains those securities. And that's a document that you give to the investors who might buy them. And there are laws governing those. And if you put in facts in there that that are materially false. That you know to be true, that is fraud. But I think the problem is that in many of these cases, I don't think that many of these people are criminals. I get a lot of criticism for saying that I don't think these people are criminals. But I think it's relatively easy to write these documents in such a way that you're not saying anything you know to be false. And so, they pass through, they pass through any kind of you avoid any possible criminal liabilities there. But yet, they can be misleading in a way that encourages people to buy them.

Simon Johnson: I think it's actually worse in some instance, Bill. Certainly for offshore activities. Goldman Sachs was involved in hiding a lot of Greek government debt. They then sold new Greek government obligations to people in the United States as far as far as we understand it. And didn't reveal that they'd hidden the levels of the true levels of government debt. Now, that is withholding material information. That's a violation of rule 10B-5. and where is the legal process, you should ask, that holds them accountable for that? I've talked to lots of very good lawyers about this. And there are many complicated stories about why Goldman Sachs won't face any civil action or criminal action. There are huge loopholes in our legal system with regard to financial services that need to be closed.

Bill Moyers: There were some interesting hearings, as I know you saw, before the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission. And some of the first, some of the most interesting testimony came from the former honchos at Citigroup. Mr. Prince and Mr. Rubin. Take a look.

CHARLES PRINCE: Let me start by saying I'm sorry. I'm sorry that our management team, starting with me, like so many others, could not see the unprecedented market collapse that lay before us.

ROBERT RUBIN: My role at Citi, defined at the outset, was to engage with clients across the bank's businesses, here and abroad. Having spent my career in positions with significant operational responsibility at Treasury and, prior to that, at Goldman Sachs, I no longer wanted such a role at this stage of my life, and my agreement with Citi provided that I would have no management of personnel or operations.

ROBERT RUBIN: But almost all of us, including me, who were involved in the financial system, missed the powerful combination of factors that led to this crisis and the serious possibility of a massive crisis. We all bear responsibility for not recognizing this, and I deeply regret that.

PHIL ANGELIDES: The two of you, in charge of this organization did not seem to have a grip on what was happening. I don't know that you can have it two ways. You were either were pulling the levers or asleep at the switch.

Bill Moyers: How can it be that a Robert Rubin, former Secretary of the Treasury, pulls down \$100 million as a senior advisor to Citigroup and claims he doesn't know the risk that was involved in what he was trying to sell to clients and foreign officials? How can that be?

James Kwak: I think there are two things. There's a narrow and a broad view of this. The narrow view is I think Rubin is actually not lying. I think it is true that Rubin did not know what the risks were. Although he certainly should have known what the risks were. And that's because he was fully subscribed to this ideology that free markets are good. That the market will take care of itself. That, he also suffered from a lot of the blindness that corporate officers and directors have. Corporate officers and directors manage these enormous organizations with tens of hundreds of thousands of people. They have very little idea what's going on. They're getting their information from subordinates, who are giving them a filtered view of the world. On the other hand, when he says, no one could have foreseen this. This is what I call an intellectual cover up. And I say that because it's very disingenuous. Over the past 20 years, these banks used their economic power and their political power to engineer an unregulated financial environment in which precisely this sort of thing could happen. And in that sense, I think that this was not an accident. It was not a natural disaster. It was not unforeseeable. It was the

product of the efforts by the sector over the past 20 years to reshape Washington and to engineer an environment that would allow them to make as much money as possible. Simon talked earlier about money. And we know that the financial sector, especially Wall Street, has been, has made enormous contributions to both campaign contributions and lobbying expenses. But I think there were, there were two more potent weapons in their arsenal. One is the revolving door. So, we've seen an enormous number of people passing back and forth between Washington and Wall Street over the past 20 years. This is not a new phenomenon. It happens in every industry. But there are certain things that make it especially pernicious when it comes to finance. One is that, one is a question of incentives. So, compared to other industries, Wall Street can simply offer enormous amounts of money. I'm not saying that everyone did that. I'm not saying that even the majority of people did that. But that is, that is very clear.

Bill Moyers: The New York Times has a story this week saying that 125 former members of Congress and staffers are now working for the financial industry in Washington. One of them is Michael Oxley, whose name is on one of the most important pieces of business legislation in the last 20 years. The Sarbanes-Oxley bill, which was designed to impose some very strict accounting rules after Enron on all of this. And there he is now, he's a lobbyist for the securities industry.

Simon Johnson: But Bill, it goes even further and deeper than that. Robert Rubin was Secretary of the Treasury in the 1990s. He oversaw the deregulation. He fought hard against Brooksley Born, the only regulator in living memory who tried to prevent derivatives from getting out of control. He then went to Citigroup. He presided over this nonsense and this mess. He's now and he was he's clearly éminence grise of this administration. Mr. Geithner and Mr. Summers are his protégés. But that's, that's not all. Next week, the Hamilton Project, a project of the Brookings Institution founded by Mr. Rubin, will have a big public event. Probably Mr. Rubin's most prominent Washington appearance since the crisis broke. The headline act at this event will be Vice President Joe Biden. Now, maybe Mr. Biden will be taking on the view of finance that we all should fear greatly. But I'm not so optimistic.

Bill Moyers: You know, I don't get it. Recently when "Newsweek" wanted to give big space to somebody to explain how we get out of this, who wrote the piece? Robert Rubin. I mean, are they locked into this worldview so that they cannot see the consequences of their own actions?

James Kwak: Well, I think there are a couple things going on. One of the things we talk about in the book is how the Democratic Party became taken over by this Wall Street friendly view in the 1990s, which is, you know, extremely important, because in the 1980s, we had a deregulatory administration that was largely opposed by a Democratic Congress. And it became very convenient for Democrats, because if you believed in the ideology of finance, you could sincerely think, I am a Democrat, I am a servant of the poor and the working class. And yet, I can take campaign contributions from Wall Street, because I sincerely believe that Wall Street is doing what's best, what's in the interest of the country.

I think it's been exposed in the last year and a half that a lot of what Wall Street did was not in the best interest of the country, not in the interest of the people getting these subprime loans, not in the interest of the taxpayer who was paying for the immense fiscal costs of the financial crisis and the recession. But it's, there's a curious time lag going on in the, in the Wall Street, intellectual and political establishment, where they think they're still in 2005.

Simon Johnson: As I travel around the country, Bill, I'm really struck by the fact that while people in Washington talk about populist anger in the country, most of what I encounter is legitimate, sensible anger. People actually understand what happened. They understand what went wrong. And they want to stop it. And the banks don't get this. The belief system on Wall Street is the same. Jamie Dimon, head of JPMorgan Chase, one of the most powerful men in the country. If you don't know his name, you should look him up because this is a man to fear.

Bill Moyers: Very close to the President. Has dinner- lunch with the President.

Simon Johnson: The President called him a savvy businessman, recently. Jamie Dimon told his shareholders, we just had probably our best year ever. They didn't have their best year ever. They went through crisis. They were saved like the rest of the financial system by the government, by the taxpayers, but that's not how they see it. That's not what they believe. That's really important. That belief must be shaken if we're to make any progress at all.

Bill Moyers: But we can't compete with those lobbying dollars. We can't compete with this interlocking oligarchy that you say. That's a fact.

Simon Johnson: Bill, in 1902, when Theodore Roosevelt took on the industrial trusts, nobody knew what he was doing. Nobody thought he could win. The Senate was called the Millionaires Club for a reason. And it wasn't even any theory. The antitrust theory, everything we know and believe about monopoly, why monopoly is bad for society, didn't really exist, certainly not in the mainstream consensus, when Roosevelt decided to take on J.P. Morgan, okay?

Ten years later, the mainstream consensus has shifted completely. People understood from the debate and from the struggle, from the fact- from the way the trusts fought back and the way they spent their money, they began to understand this was profoundly dangerous, politically and socially. 1912, everyone agreed that breaking up Standard Oil was a good idea. Had to be done. They broke into 35 companies, most of them did well. The shareholders actually made money. It's a very American resolution, Bill. And it's very clear that we've had this confrontation before in American history: Andrew Jackson against the Second Bank of the United States in the 1830s, Jackson won, barely; Theodore Roosevelt, the beginning of the 20th Century; FDR in the 1930s.

The American democracy was not given to us on a platter. It is not ours for all time, irrespective of our efforts. Either people organize and they find political leadership to take this on, or we are going to be in big trouble, okay? Now, I agree, we don't have Theodore Roosevelt. I agree. The only Senator who speaks complete truth and clarity on this issue is Ted Kaufman from Delaware, who's an appointed Senator, he got- he was appointed to Joe Biden's seat, and he's not running for reelection. He therefore doesn't care about the money. I take that point. But there are others. There must be others. We must find them and we must fund them, individually, sufficiently, to fight against this nonsense from the corporate sector.

I would like to emphasize, Bill, I'm a professional entrepreneurship, James is a successful entrepreneur. We're not anti-finance. We have many people endorsing the book, backing us, and you know, they, we put their blurbs in the book for a reason, who are from finance. Who really appreciate and understand this key point. Which is the complexity has gone too far. It's become dangerous. And we need to return our financial system to a simpler, more direct, easier to manage way.

Bill Moyers: You both paid attention last week, to the hearings in Washington, on the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission. Was there a theme that you heard emerge there?

James Kwak: I think the biggest theme that I heard emerge was that this was an innocent mistake. So, what I mean by that is-

Bill Moyers: You mean the collapse of 2008? All of this? What- was-

James Kwak: Exactly.

Bill Moyers: An accident?

James Kwak: Yes, an accident in the sense that-

Bill Moyers: Natural disaster?

James Kwak: As we heard Chuck Prince say and Robert Rubin say, we couldn't see it coming. These were, there were risks that build up in the system, and our models didn't account for it. We're sorry that it happened. Not even, we're sorry that we did it. We're sorry that it happened.

And I think that this is, I mean, it's unfortunate if they really believe this. Because again, if we just take a very small example, one of the things that clearly went wrong is these banks were not able to manage their own risk. They did not know what positions they had. They did not know what market forces they were exposed to. You would think that should be the first job of a bank. And I don't think this was an innocent mistake. And I say that for this reason. It was in the bank's

short term financial interest to underestimate their risk. Because if they had estimated their risk accurately, they should have had to set more capital aside, they would have been less profitable.

So, yes, it's possible that the CEOs of these banks honestly did not understand their risk positions. But that mistake-- there was an incentive behind that mistake. You know, banks never overestimate their risk. These mistakes always only go in one direction. Because that's the direction they have an incentive to make the mistake in.

Bill Moyers: What do you mean they have an incentive to make a mistake?

James Kwak: So, in the short term, a bank's profitability is going to depend on how much capital it has to set aside. So, in banking, if I have a certain position, I have to set aside a certain amount of capital to protect myself from that position going bad. If I think the position is less risky than it actually is, I'm going to set aside less capital to cover that position, and that's going to give me a higher profit margin.

If I'm the head of this bank, that means that in the short term, I'm going to have higher profits, higher stock price, more money for me, but I'm underestimating the risk of something blowing up several years down the line. But we know that the, essentially, the incentive systems within these banks favor short term profits over long term solvency.

Simon Johnson: The most profound thing, observation, on this structure, inadvertent, I would say, observation, was by Chuck Prince, the former head of Citigroup. In July 2007, right before the whole structure began to crumble. He said, "As long as the music is playing, you've got to get up and dance." And that's a statement about the incentive structure. Saying, well, everybody's doing it. That's how we all make money. We've got to do it, too. I'm just a bank doing what all the other banks are doing. That's absolutely the heart of the problem. I would also say and tell you, and emphasize, these people will not come out and debate with us. The heads of these companies or their representatives, they will not come out. They're afraid. They don't have the substance. They don't have the arguments. We have the evidence. They have the lobbyists. And that's all they have.

Bill Moyers: They've got the power, the muscle, the money.

Simon Johnson: They have money.

Bill Moyers: You just have the arguments. You just have the facts. On your side.

Simon Johnson: Absolutely. That's exactly what it comes down to.

Bill Moyers: Let me show you one of my favorite moments of the week. The commission on the crisis is looking into two former executives of the big mortgage giants, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. And the Fannie Mae guy tries to say, what happened was Congress made us do it.

BILL THOMAS: Was there an opportunity, perhaps, to reprioritize your charter and focus on those things that were most relevant in the marketplace that would have made the institution more sound?

ROBERT J. LEVIN: That wasn't done at my pay grade.

BILL THOMAS: My understanding is, between 2000 and 2008, you made \$45 million. So only people above 45 thousand-- 45, excuse me, million dollars, between two and 2008, could answer that question?

ROBERT J. LEVIN: What I meant by the, what I was addressing was the question of, could we have affected the charter act--

BILL THOMAS: Right. And it was above--

ROBERT J. LEVIN: Of the company--

BILL THOMAS: Your pay grade.

ROBERT J. LEVIN: Yes. And my language was sloppy, and--

BILL THOMAS: No, it wasn't sloppy.

ROBERT J. LEVIN: And what I meant by that--

BILL THOMAS: It was flippant, if you want that as a choice.

ROBERT J. LEVIN: What I meant by that, sir, was that that was in the purview of the Congress, not the company.

Bill Moyers: You're laughing.

Simon Johnson: So, look, what I say to my, to all my Republican friends: on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, you were right. They became too big to fail. They captured Congress. They were known as some of the most formidable financial lobbyists in the 1990s. They argued for the rights to take on these kinds of risks, okay?

And the Republicans were right. The Republicans called them on this. But now it's the big private banks that have the same incentive structure. That have bulked themselves up so big that you can't let them fail. That's what we saw in September 2008. Hank Paulson looked at his options. And they are all pretty awful. And I'm not a big fan of Hank Paulson, but I think the moment where he looked at it, he was right. That if you let JPMorgan Chase or Goldman Sachs fail, the consequences would have been devastating, because they're so big. It's a Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac structure come to Wall Street, come to the top guys on Wall Street. And our Republican colleagues and friends should recognize this, they should acknowledge it. And then we can all fix this together.

Bill Moyers: Well then why is Mitch McConnell, the Senator from Kentucky, who is the Republican Leader in the Senate saying what he said this week? Let me show you from his statement.

SEN. MITCH MCCONNELL: If there's one thing Americans agree on when it comes to financial reform, it's that it's absolutely certain they agree on this: never again, never again should taxpayers be expected to bail out Wall Street from its own mistakes [...] This bill not only allows for taxpayer-funded bailouts of Wall Street banks, it institutionalizes them. The way to solve the problem is to let the people who made the mistakes pay for them. We won't solve this problem until the biggest banks are allowed to fail.

Bill Moyers: He seems to be saying what you say, right?

Simon Johnson: It's a clever piece of political manipulation. It's not at all what we say. What he says is dangerous and deliberately misleading.

Bill Moyers: How so?

Simon Johnson: He says let the biggest banks fail, go bankrupt, don't do anything, leave the situation as it is now and when they get in trouble, let them fail. If you do that, you'll have catastrophe. The bankruptcy system clearly and manifestly cannot deal with the failure of a complex, global, financial institution. And we have the evidence before us in what happened after Lehman Brothers failed. That was bankruptcy. It caused chaos around the world, Bill. That's what the Republicans are advocating. Is we just leave things as they are and next time we'll take that chaos and we'll get a second Great Depression. We're arguing for reform. We're arguing for change. We're arguing for ways to make those biggest banks smaller and safer. If they were small enough to fail, that's a very different story. And that's a much safer place to be.

Bill Moyers: What do these big six banks think about what Senator McConnell is saying?

James Kwak: Well, the big six banks don't want any reform at all, essentially. So, I think that they are, and there's some evidence that Senator McConnell has been talking to the big banks and to other people on Wall Street.

Bill Moyers: There have been published reports that he attended a fundraiser with hedge funds and other Wall Street poobahs just last week, before he made this statement. And the reporters, knowing that he had been at this big fundraiser for hedge fund and Wall Street tycoons a week before, begin to press him in an unusual, and actually promising way. Take a look at this.

REPORTER: How do you push back against this perception that you're doing the bidding of the large banks? You know, there was a report that you guys met with hedge fund managers in New York. A lot of people are viewing this particular line of argument, this bailout argument as spin--

SEN. MITCH MCCONNELL: You could talk to the community bankers in Kentucky.

REPORTER: I'm not asking you about the community bankers--

SEN. MITCH MCCONNELL: But, I'm telling you about the community bankers in Kentucky. This is not, everybody--

REPORTER: Have you talked with other people other than community bankers?

SEN. MITCH MCCONNELL: Well, sure. We talk to people all the time. I'm not denying that. What's wrong with that? That's how we learn how people feel about legislation. But the community bankers in Kentucky, the little guys, the main street guys, are overwhelmingly opposed to this bill.

REPORTER: Well what would you say to folks who say that this is just spin to deflect attention from the fact that you're representing the large banks?

Bill Moyers: So, he deflects their questions about being at this meeting with the large banks, the oligarchs, as you called them. And talks about community banks back in Kentucky. What do you make of that?

Simon Johnson: Well, two things, Bill. First of all, he's embarrassed, as he should be, and that's good. I don't think they used to be embarrassed. I think-- I hope Vice President Biden is somewhat embarrassed by the event he's going to attend next week with Robert Rubin, unless he criticizes Rubin and goes after Rubin's view of the world. In which case, I'm okay with that.

James Kwak: This other part of the problem which Simon and I talk about more in the book, and that we don't think is fully solved by the legislation in the Senate, is why do you have to have these too big to fail banks in the first place? So, we think that's the obvious and simplest and almost unarguable solution that you should simply not have banks that are too big and too interconnected to fail.

Simon Johnson: There are no benefits to society, Bill, from having banks that are larger than \$100 billion in total assets. This is a well-established fact. The evidence does--

Bill Moyers: You make the case.

Simon Johnson: There's nearly 100 pages of footnotes for a reason.

Bill Moyers: But don't let the facts get in the way.

Simon Johnson: I understand. But there's no evidence, okay? We've let our banks get to \$2 trillion-- Citigroup when it almost failed or did fail in fall 2008 was a \$2.5 trillion bank. Jamie Dimon runs a \$2 trillion bank at JPMorgan Chase and says, if we're big, it's 'cause we're beautiful and efficient. And we should be allowed to get bigger. It's not true. They're big because of the government subsidy, right? That's what gives them the profits at this level. If they get bigger, they'll become

more dangerous. That's, those are the costs. On the benefit side, there's no economy of scale or scope or anything else to support the case that banks bigger than \$100 billion. That's on a pure cost/benefit basis.

James Kwak: So, there's no way that Jamie Dimon, who according to many observers is perhaps the savviest bank CEO, the best one out there, there's no way that he can know what's going on within his organization. There's no way he can even have an information system that will let him know, efficiently, all the things that he needs to know. So, why is JPMorgan Chase so big? One reason is that it's in the interest of CEOs to have large banks. Because if you have, the larger your bank, the bigger your salary. But then at the same time, it creates this incentive among the traders, the people who really make the money or lose the money in these banks. It creates an incentive to the traders to essentially exploit the management failings of the company.

Bill Moyers: The toughest hearing in Washington this week was conducted by Senator Carl Levin in the Senate, looking into Washington Mutual. That's the largest bank ever to go under in our history, and there are some friends of mine in Washington say there's some possible criminal indictments going to be coming out of this. Let me show you Senator Levin laying out some of the evidence.

SEN. CARL LEVIN: To keep that conveyor belt running and feed the securitization machine on Wall Street, Washington Mutual engaged in lending practices that created a mortgage time bomb...WaMu built its conveyor belt of toxic mortgages to feed Wall Street's appetite for mortgage-backed securities. Because volume and speed were king, loan quality fell by the wayside and WaMu churned out more and more loans that were high risk and poor quality.

Destructive compensation schemes played a role in the problems just described. These incentives contributed to shoddy lending practices in which credit evaluations took a back seat to approving as many loans as possible.

Bill Moyers: He goes on, you know? There's evidence that WaMu knowingly sold fraudulent loans to investors in the form of securities. That loan offices were falsifying documentation in order to churn out as many lousy loans as they could. And that senior management was putting pressure on the loan officers to do just this. And he claims, what we were talking about, that destructive compensation schemes were part of the problem.

James Kwak: I think that some people may go to jail. I think that falsifying loan documents, I think there's a good chance people could go to jail for that. I think that if there are- you know, when you get the emails of people at midlevel managers at these banks saying, you know, falsify the loan documents. They might go to jail as well. I don't think anyone who's high up in these banks is going to go to jail for this reason.

I think that, for example, these loans were eventually sold on to investment banks which used them to manufacture new securities. Those investment banks were getting documents from Washington Mutual. These are like representations and warranties. So Washington Mutual is saying, you know, these loans meet these criteria. And the investment bank is going to say, I got this document from Washington Mutual. They told me the loans were good. You can't send me to jail.

And he's absolutely right. So, you've got investment bankers who must have known. Who should have known that a lot of these loans are bad. But they've got a piece of paper from the person selling them the loan saying they meet these criteria. He's pretty much Scott free when it comes to criminal liability. So--

Bill Moyers: Mistakes were made, but not by me, right?

James Kwak: Exactly.

Bill Moyers: I mean, that seems to be the mantra that came through all these hearings this week: mistakes were made but not by me.

Simon Johnson: Or, no, I think they also say, Bill, well, everyone made mistakes, Bill. You know, we're just human. This was beyond our control. And that's not true, these are systems they controlled, they designed. Mr. Rubin designed this, right? And I want to point out there's something very interesting in this WaMu conversation.

It's only when a firm collapses that you get full discovery. Now, Senator Levin is a great voice on this. And I think he's absolutely nailing this. But he only has the ability to get at this level of detail and documentation from a company that failed like WaMu. For the people who were able to keep going. The Goldman Sachs of this world, you'll never know what they were really up to.

These are incredibly smart people. They're very well paid. They have every incentive. The regulators are totally outgunned. It's not an accident that this complexity allows them to get away with it. It's by design. That's the system. Not a conspiracy, Bill. Don't say that.

Bill Moyers: I wouldn't.

Simon Johnson: It's a system of--

Bill Moyers: A system.

Simon Johnson: It's a system of beliefs and incentives, much more profoundly dangerous than a conspiracy.

Bill Moyers: Why?

Simon Johnson: Conspiracies you can unroot. Conspiracies you can have, you know, a couple of hearings. People can understand it on TV. You get the sound bite. This is very complex. This is about what many, many PhDs and specialists in finance have cooked up over 20 years with the active participation of the people who were supposed to oversee that in Washington.

Bill Moyers: Is this what the blogger meant when he posted on "The Baseline Scenario" this week, "Unnecessary complexity just creates rich opportunities for systemic corruption"?

James Kwak: That is certainly one of the things he meant.

Bill Moyers: What should be the purpose of reform? Should it change the behavior of Wall Street, or should it change the regulation of Wall Street? And there is a difference, is there not?

Simon Johnson: Absolutely. Look, I don't know if this will work or not. I don't know if at the end of the day, we will end up supporting the bill. I hope we will, okay? But whatever happens, this is one legislative cycle. Theodore Roosevelt did not change the mainstream consensus in this country with regard to power and monopoly and the dangerous side effects of big business overnight.

He didn't do it in one year or two years. It was a ten year process. The consensus has to change, Bill. And regulation, the role of regulation or understanding of regulation with regard to finance has to change. The regulation is there to limit the downside to society and to make sure that all of these activities have as much as possible of the positive effect on the economy without generating these massive negative shocks. And we're a long way from that point.

James Kwak: I think the distinction you made is a very good one. Between changing the regulation of Wall Street and changing Wall Street itself. I think the bill does a lot of things that will improve the regulatory system.

I think it does not do a lot to change Wall Street. Certainly, better regulation will change Wall Street a little bit, but some of the basic fundamental issues, I think, for example, the fact that in many realms, Wall Street banks knowingly make money by finding, because they want to put on a trade, they find a sucker to take the other side of that trade.

They're making money directly off of their customers. You can't really have it any other way when you're engaged in proprietary trading. These, this is not going to change. The fact that we have these enormous banks that are too big to manage and that have a competitive advantage, because they're big. That's not going to change.

And that's one reason I think why it's not going to satisfy the many people in America right now who are upset and frustrated about what's happen. Because they're going to see that what we've done is we've made Washington a little bit better at regulating Wall Street. We haven't changed the fundamental causes.

Bill Moyers: Well, I've seen one regulatory agency after another taken over by the very industries they were supposed to regulate.

Simon Johnson: This is absolutely right, Bill. And, you know, the person who nailed this intellectually a long time ago was from the University of Chicago. George Stigler. Not a man of the left. He got a Nobel Prize for his observation. All regulated industries end up with the industry capturing the regulators.

And what's happened to us is a Stigler, exactly what Stigler warned against on a massive scale. And you have to think very hard about this. The Administration still argues that we should delegate responsibility, going forward, for lots of things around finance. Like how much capital you should have. Delegate that to the regulators.

Now, that's crazy. That's not acceptable. That is not what they should do. Particularly because, and any Democrat should say, well, wait a minute, next time a free market President who doesn't believe in regulation comes in will gut the system. And any person from the right who's read Stigler should say, Well, these regulators are just going to get captured. You've got to put it in legislation. You've got to design the legislation. You've got to go after the things that can be legislated. Congress must not abdicate this responsibility.

Bill Moyers: So, you would break up the banks. That's what you would do, right?

Simon Johnson: We would set a hard size cap on the banks. And the banks, in order to comply with that, would have to break themselves up. So, take a bank like Goldman Sachs, for example. It's about ten times bigger than what we would be comfortable with. And, you put that cap in-- they have to figure out how to do it. They have a fiduciary responsibility to their shareholders not to lose value as they comply with this law, not a regulation, law, right? Our book is called "13 Bankers" because it was 13 bankers who were pulled into the White House last March, and they were saved completely and unconditionally in the most amazing deal ever: their jobs, their pensions, their board of directors, their empires. But the title is also an echo of a remark made forcefully in 1998 by Larry Summers, who was then Deputy Treasury Secretary to Brooksley Born, who was trying to regulate over the counter derivatives.

And she was way ahead of her time, by the way. None of this nonsense existed. But she had- she saw this coming in a very profound sense. And she wanted to act in a preemptive and preventive way. Now, Larry Summers called her up. This is according to the public record and it's not been disputed by any of the protagonists here.

He called her up and he said, Brooksley, if you do what you want to do, which is regulate the derivatives. Over- regulate all this over the counter derivatives, you- I have 13 bankers in my office who say you will cause the greatest financial crisis since World War II., right? That was what he believed. That was the prevailing philosophy of the Rubin wing, the Wall Street wing of the Democratic Party.

That was Alan Greenspan's view. That is what brought us to this point. The idea that if you regulate, in any fashion, in any form, you will cause problems, you will prevent growth, you will cause crisis. That view is profoundly wrong. It has been manifestly and repeatedly demonstrated to be wrong. And the people who hold that view must change their minds or they should be voted out of office.

Bill Moyers: If Wall Street's behavior doesn't change, can we have another financial catastrophe like the one in 2008?

James Kwak: The definition of insanity is repeating the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. And I think one of the core messages in our book is that the fundamental conditions of the financial system today are the same as the ones we had leading up to this crisis. And it would be folly to expect a different outcome.

Now, the legislation will help in certain ways. It will certainly, you know, it'll bolt the barn door after the horses have fled.

The Consumer Financial Protection Agency will make it much harder to have a bubble built on subprime mortgages. But we'll have a bubble built on something else. And it may even be on a market or a product that doesn't even exist yet.

And that's why, again, legislation is helpful, but if you're going to have the same kind of incentive structures on Wall Street and the same degree of concentration, the same degree of political power, it's likely that we'll have another financial crisis.

The financial world has gotten much more dangerous in the last 30 years. We had this one. We had the stock market bubble of 2000. We had the long term capital management crisis. We had the S & L crisis. We had the Latin American debt crisis. And the question is, are these crises going to-- are we going to somehow figure out a way to have fewer of them, or a way to make them less damaging? And I'm not sure I've seen that.

Simon Johnson: The structure of the system is such that people will take these egregious risks. That's what they're paid to do. They will mismanage their companies. That is absolutely in their incentive. And they get the upside, remember? Goldman Sachs just helped Geely Automotive, a Chinese car company, buy Volvo from Ford.

Now, that's an interesting investment. It's a very risky investment. If that goes well, Goldman will get tremendous upside. If it goes badly or if Goldman's other investments go badly, who gets the downside? Well, Goldman Sachs is a bank holding company now. They were allowed to become that in September 2008 as a way to rescue them. They have access to the Federal Reserve discount window. Okay? If Goldman Sachs gets into trouble, that's the responsibility of the Federal Reserve and the downside is for society. That is an untenable, unacceptable position in America today.

Bill Moyers: We are moving now toward the decisive moment in this fight for reform, sometime in the next two or three weeks, we may well have a vote in the Senate. But what are you going to be looking for over the next two weeks that will convince you there is some possibility of true reform?

James Kwak: Well, it's going to be a little bit difficult, because right now a lot of the action is in the fine print. As often happens in the last phase of bills. But I think there's going to be an attempt to weaken the Consumer Financial Protection Agency. Even more than it's been weakened already.

And essentially, what will happen is opponents will try to make the C.F.P.A. subordinate to some other regulators, who can veto it. I think that on derivatives, there's going to be a lot of action, essentially on this issue of exemptions.

So, the derivative legislation looks quite good if you read the first page and look at the headlines. But then there are exemptions inside it. And the question is how big are the exemptions. The thing that we care about most is on the too big to fail issue. So, are we going to have real constraints on the size and scope of these banks? Things that the Obama Administration unveiled in principle to great fanfare in January.

They had a press conference with Paul Volcker and said we're going to have these Volcker rules. Those rules have been considerably watered down in the legislation. And I think that, you know, what we would most like to see are serious constraints on the scope and the size of these banks. Those are the main issues that I'll be looking at.

Simon Johnson: So, the second Volcker rule was proposed in January was to put a size cap on our largest banks at their current size. Now, that-

Bill Moyers: \$2 trillion?

Simon Johnson: Yes.

Bill Moyers: 2 trillion- a

Simon Johnson: Now, a size cap is a good idea. Obviously, the current size makes no sense at all, because that's how we got into this mess. There will be amendments brought forward to the floor of the Senate, if this process has any integrity at all. For example, Senator Sherrod Brown has a very good draft amendment.

Bill Moyers: Ohio, right?

Simon Johnson: Absolutely. And he will, in that amendment, press for a hard cap on the size. And I think also restrictions on the scope. And they'll give a lot more restrictions in legislation, which regulators will have a hard time getting out to, in terms of what can be allowed in our biggest financial institutions.

For me, at least Bill, that is going to be the critical moment. How many people support that amendment or that kind of amendment. Does the Democratic leadership come out in favor of it? Where does the White House stand on this? If the White House steps back and the White House says well, it's all up to the Senate, we're staying out of this. I think you know what's going to happen. You're going to get mush, right? Nothing really meaningful will come of it.

If the President takes the lead, the President takes this one, if the President takes this to the country, takes on the Chamber of Commerce, goes directly to people. And explains why you need to make our biggest banks smaller. As one way, that's not a sufficient condition for financial stability, but it's necessary and it gets at the heart of their political power. Take on the big banks. Take them on directly. That's what Jackson did. That's what Theodore Roosevelt did. That's what Franklin Roosevelt did, too.

Bill Moyers: Simon Johnson, James Kwak, thank you for being with me. The book is [13 Bankers: The Wall St. Takeover and the Next Financial Meltdown](#). We will link this conversation with your website, [BaselineScenario.com](#).

Bill Moyers is the host of [Bill Moyers Journal](#) on PBS.

Vichy America

By David Glenn Cox [article link](#)

April 23, 2010

The Death Penalty for Murderous 'Corporate Persons'

By Len Hart [article link](#) [article link](#)

April 23, 2010

The Existentialist Cowboy [home page](#)

Information Clearing House [home page](#)

Next bubble: \$600 trillion?

by Jerome R. Corsi [article link](#)

04.22.10

WorldNetDaily [home page](#)

The Silver Bear Cafe [home page](#)

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:53 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Christopher Ketchem: The Real Socialist Threat is the Military

Watch Out for Those Pinko-Commies in Camo

The Real Socialist Threat is the Military

By CHRISTOPHER KETCHAM [article link](#)

April 22, 2010 CounterPunch

I got into an e-mail conversation recently with a former CIA officer and ex-Marine, who, in horror at the Obama administration, went into a Tea Partyst fit denouncing the “communists, socialists, wealth redistribution folks, Democrats in Congress.” This was not his usual lucid style (he has helped me as a source on several stories), and he seemed to have momentarily lost his mind in considering the matter, or, at least, that part of the mind wherein a cold assessment of facts might operate. I wrote him back: “Where are these communist/socialist/wealth-redistribution folks? I see none of their ilk anywhere in Congress.” He never replied.

Perhaps that’s because the “right-wing” types such as my good pal refuse to recognize – or perhaps recognize all too well, and therefore don’t want to talk about it – that whenever wealth needs to be redistributed for the benefit of corporate personhood, our Congress goose-steps to the line. It’s “socialism” for the rich, the powerful, the influential, those able to marshal cash incentives to get their cats’ paws to pass laws that favor their interests, for the doling out of public funds for private benefit. It’s socialism for banks and automakers and big pharma and big agribusiness and the behemoths in energy and defense, and on and on. So much for the glorious independence and striving of the perceived paragons of the free market. The derangement of so many rightists in this country – viz. the dingbat Tea Partiers – is clear: They fail to understand that when large corporations hold sway over government there is no “capitalism” and no “free market,” certainly not as Adam Smith imagined it in *The Wealth of Nations*. And as businesses grow bigger to capture government, so does government grow when captured – how else could it service big business?

Then again, my ex-CIA/ex-Marine source may be on to something about the socialist menace – as he would know all about it, having been trained, directed, housed and pensioned by a grossly expanding branch of government for most of his working life. Consider the path to happiness paved by the bomb-makers and the aircraft and tank and battleship manufacturers and the makers of grenades and rifles and teargas and bullets, and all the ancillaries of the military industrial complex, the “counterterror” thinktanks and mercenary contractors and intelligence-surveillance-security firms. These would not, could not, survive without government contracts, government intervention, government swaddling and succoring and snuggling, and, of course, the perpetual preparation for and making of government-run wars that feed their industries. The imperial war-machine is the great socialist enterprise of our time.

Indeed, if we want real socialism for actual persons, we should all join the US military: Everything is socialized in the military, the personnel getting socialized medicine and socialized housing and socialized transport and much else (socialized bullets and bombs), the ideal and modus operandi being one of purest collectivism, the training the kind that teaches recognition of hierarchies and obedience in that long chain of command – chain is the operative word – wherein you do what you’re told, you listen to the boss, you don’t question, you don’t fend for yourself, you don’t step out of line. How totally un-American. Thus does the military man, having given up the struggle for self-command and self-reliance, receive diapering and feeding and care, ideally from cradle to grave, never opting to grow up and survive in the rigors of the marketplace. Those filthy pinko-commies in the US Army! Who woulda thunk it!

It’s astonishing, though, that these same government-trained and -paid personnel so often are to be found griping about the shape and size of the tit that keeps them alive. I have a close relative, for example, who talks the hard-core right-winger line, complaining endlessly about big government and “socialism” – yet he works for the ever-metastasizing State Department. When he calls me a “leftist,” I like to tell him I have never worked for government, never gotten a government paycheck, nor any grant or subsidy from government, nor any loans, never profited from government personally (as opposed, say, to profiting from government roads), never gotten food stamps or welfare or Medicaid or workman’s compensation or unemployment insurance, nor cashed in my Social Security benefits (forced to pay for them in the first place), nor received any other scrap of so-called “wealth redistribution.” What a leftist I must be.

Christopher Ketcham, a freelance writer in Brooklyn, NY, is working on a book about U.S. secession movements. Find more of his work at www.christopherketcham.com or contact him at cketcham99@mindspring.com.

CounterPunch [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:50 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Brian Tokar: Reclaiming Earth Day

Reclaiming Earth Day: With Climate Chaos on the Horizon, the Environmental Movement Needs Traction

By Brian Tokar [article link](#) [article link](#)

From the April 23, 2010 issue | Posted in Jessica Lee, National

On the 40th anniversary of Earth Day April 22, many seasoned environmentalists are left wondering how, in recent decades, so little has actually been accomplished.

While environmental awareness has seeped into mainstream U.S. society since the 1970s — the era when 20 million people hit the streets on Earth Day to demand action — the structures of power remain largely the same. The mass mobilizations around the original Earth Day helped spur then-President Richard Nixon to sign a series of ambitious environmental laws that helped to clean contaminated waterways, save the bald eagle from the ravages of pesticides and began to clear the air, which in the early 1960s was so polluted that people were passing out all over our cities. Most environmental victories since then have benefited from those changes in the law, but more fundamental changes seem as distant as ever.

Today's environmental movement is floundering, even though the stakes are even higher. While local grassroots campaigners continue to fight for endangered forests, challenge polluting companies in their communities, and confront the coal industry's assaults on the mountains of southern Appalachia, the best known national organizations can point to few recent victories. And they have failed to demonstrate meaningful leadership around what climatologist James Hansen calls the "predominant moral issue of this century": the struggle to prevent the catastrophic and irreversible warming of the planet.

As British journalist Johann Hari reported in The Nation in his article, "[The Wrong Kind of Green](#)," in March, this is partly the result of a legacy of corporate-styled environmental organizations teaming up with the world's most polluting companies.

In response to the climate crisis, we have seen unprecedented collaboration between large environmental organizations and corporations seeking to profit from new environmental legislation. For example, the Climate Action Partnership (known as USCAP) has brought Alcoa, DuPont, General Electric and General Motors together with the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Environmental Defense Fund and the Nature Conservancy to push for the "market-based" approach to climate legislation known as "cap-and-trade." This policy — which passed the U.S. House last year — would put a cap on the total amount of pollution, then allow businesses limiting their carbon dioxide emissions to sell "permits to pollute" to dirtier companies. This would create a vast, highly speculative market in carbon credits and offsets, with gigantic perks for corporations and little benefit for the planet. The push for cap-and-trade legislation has receded for now under pressure from both right wing anti-tax fanatics and market-skeptical environmentalists, but Washington observers now anticipate an even worse Senate climate bill, to be announced later in April, which will be laden with far more blatant giveaways to the fossil fuel and nuclear industries.

It begs the question — where has the environmental movement gone wrong?

THE FIRST EARTH DAY

It turns out that the original Earth Day on April 22, 1970, was initially a staged event. Politicians like Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-WI) and Rep. Pete McCloskey (R-CA) took the lead in crafting the first Earth Day celebration that unexpectedly

brought millions of people out around the country. The events, however, were supported by establishment institutions like the Conservation Foundation, a corporate think-tank founded by Laurance Rockefeller in 1948. Nixon even began the year with a presidential proclamation saying that the 1970s would be the “environmental decade.”

Anti-Vietnam War activists argued that Earth Day (originally the Environmental Teach-In) became a devious attempt to divert national attention away from the war, from the antiwar movement’s planned Spring Offensive campaign, and from efforts to raise awareness of the common causes of war, poverty and environmental destruction. An editorial in [Ramparts](#), the most prominent activist journal of the period, described Earth Day as, “the first step in a con game that will do little more than abuse the environment even further.”

The April 1970 Ramparts featured a striking exposé on “The Eco-Establishment,” which focused on the corporate think-tanks that were helping to shape the emerging environmental legislation. “[T]oday’s big business conservation,” Ramparts editorialized, “is not interested in preserving the earth; it is rationally reorganizing for a more efficient rape of resources ... and the production of an ever grosser national product.” They continued, “The seeming contradictions are mind-boggling: industry is combating waste so it can afford to waste more. ... Ecologically, it could be the end.”

Journalist I. F. Stone wrote in his famous investigative weekly, “[J]ust as the Caesars once used bread and circuses so ours were at last learning to use rock-and-roll idealism and non-inflammatory social issues to turn the youth off from more urgent concerns which might really threaten the power structure. ... [W]e may wake up one morning and find there is nothing left on Earth to pollute.”

To everyone’s surprise, Earth Day turned out to be the largest outpouring of public sentiment on any political issue to date. It drew public attention to environmentalism as a social movement in its own right, perhaps for the first time. And it set the stage for the public to pressure Congress to pass 15 major national environmental laws over a 10-year period, including the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, Toxic Substances Control Act and the establishment of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION: THE BACK-STORY

The origin of those 1970s environmental laws also has an underappreciated backstory. Throughout the 1960s, people were responding with horror to the increasingly visible effects of smog, oil spills, pesticide contamination and other environmental assaults. Local governments responded by implementing their own, sometimes far-reaching programs of environmental monitoring and enforcement. Creative environmental lawsuits established important and unanticipated precedents, extending the right of citizens to sue to protect ecological values and furthering judicial review of the actions of government agencies.

This proved costly for business and corporate interests came to view federal intervention as a possible solution. “[T]he elite of business leadership,” reported Fortune magazine on the eve of Earth Day in 1970, “strongly desire the federal government to step in, set the standards, regulate all activities pertaining to the environment, and help finance the job with tax incentives.”

Far from an interference with business prerogatives, environmental regulation by the federal government became a way to allay public concerns while offering corporate America a menu of uniform and predictable environmental rules. The laws passed in the aftermath of Earth Day helped fund essential public works projects, such as the construction of sewage treatment plants, and offered protections for public health and biodiversity — but they also routinized and standardized the permitting of most industrial facilities. Most important, federal rules often pre-empted states and localities from enforcing regulations more stringent than those advanced at the national level; this core principle of federal pre-emption has again reared its head in today’s Congressional debate over climate legislation.

Just a decade later, President Ronald Reagan packed the new regulatory agencies’ staffs with corporate hacks who were openly hostile to their agencies’ missions. (President George W. Bush replicated this strategy in the early 2000s.) Reagan’s first EPA administrator resigned after two years in office, facing charges of contempt of Congress after replacing the agency’s senior staff with officials from companies like General Motors and Exxon and mercilessly slashing the budget.

Reagan's cartoonish Secretary of the Interior, James Watt, spoke publicly of Armageddon and the need to exploit as much land as possible before its coming. Watt's policies, according to former New York Times reporter Philip Shabecoff, "introduced policies aimed at transferring control of public lands and resources to private entrepreneurs at a rate that had not been seen since the great giveaways of the nineteenth century."

THE ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS QUO

Meanwhile, throughout the 1970s and 1980s, representatives of the largest national environmental groups became an increasingly visible and entrenched part of the Washington political scene. As the appearance of success within the system grew, organizations from the National Wildlife Federation to the Natural Resources Defense Council restructured and changed personnel so as to more effectively play the insider game. The environmental movement became a stepping stone in the careers of a new generation of Washington lawyers and lobbyists, and official environmentalism came to accept the role long established for other regulatory advocates: that of helping to sustain the smooth functioning of the system. Environmentalism had been redefined, in the words of author and historian Robert Gottlieb as "a kind of interest group politics tied to the maintenance of the environmental policy system."

This shift in the character of the most nationally visible environmental groups spelled the end of bold new policy initiatives on behalf of the environment. An environmental mainstream adapted to "insider" politics proved incapable of sustaining even a moderate Congressional consensus in favor of environmental protection, and ultimately helped prepare the stage for the anti-environmental backlash of the 1980s and beyond. The largest environmental groups launched direct mail appeals that brought in vast new funds, reflecting people's outrage against the Reagan administration's anti-environmentalism. Ironically, the success of these appeals pushed many groups further toward a conspicuously top-down, corporate-style structure. Those advocating a more corporate style invariably won internal battles within the Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth and even Greenpeace. They increasingly avoided issues and tactics that might prove alienating to wealthy donors.

The Sierra Club grew from 80,000 to 630,000 members during the 1980s, and the conservative National Wildlife Federation reported membership gains of up to 8,000 a month, totaling nearly a million. The total budget of the 10 largest environmental groups grew from less than \$10 million in 1965, to \$218 million in 1985 and \$514 million in 1990. By the early 1990s, even the thoroughly mainstream former editor of Audubon magazine would lament that "naturalists have been replaced by ecocrats who are more comfortable on Capitol Hill than in the woods, fields, meadows, mountains and swamps."

Environmental groups also began their flirtation with corporate sponsorships, so aptly summarized by Johann Hari in *The Nation*. In the lead-up to the 20th anniversary of Earth Day in 1990, activists (including this author) began closely investigating those ties, and revealed links between groups such as the National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society, and a rogue's gallery of major oil, chemical, utility and banking corporations. The Multinational Monitor explored links between environmental organizations' directorships and corporate boards, university researchers scrutinized the big environmental groups' stock portfolios, and others explored the even more nefarious ties that tainted the world of "progressive" foundations.

THE RISE OF GREEN CONSUMERISM

By 1990, everyone seemed to want to be an environmentalist. President George H. W. Bush proclaimed himself a defender of the environment and briefly aimed to distance himself from the anti-environmental excesses of the Reagan years by adopting the first national cap-and-trade system to address the problem of acid rain. Sen. Al Gore (D-TN), the 1988 presidential primary campaign's leading Democratic war hawk, began speaking out about global warming and other environmental threats. Britain's reactionary Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher called herself a "green." Even the president of the World Bank won praise from environmental publications for voicing concerns about the bank's role in environmental destruction. The Environmental Defense Fund led the way in pushing for a more aggressively "market-oriented" approach to environmental policy.

So, it was not a huge surprise when the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of Earth Day in 1990 became the coming-out party for a more overtly corporate brand of environmentalism. Earth Day celebrations became a virtual extravaganza of

corporate hype, and “green consumerism” was the order of the day. The official overriding message was simply “change your lifestyle,” by recycling, driving less and buying green products. And while the national Earth Day organization turned down some \$4 million in corporate donations that did not meet its rather “flexible” criteria, celebrations in several major U.S. cities were supported by notorious polluters such as Monsanto, Peabody Coal and Georgia Power. Everyone from the nuclear power industry to the Chemical Manufacturers’ Association purchased full-page advertisements in newspapers and magazines proclaiming that, for them, “Every day is Earth Day.” Through a variety of marketing schemes, corporations tried to paint themselves “green” (a practice known as “greenwashing”), while doing very little to actually reduce their impact on the environment.

Some activists responded by organizing more politically challenging local Earth Day anniversaries of their own, focusing on local environmental struggles, urban issues, the nature of corporate power and a host of other problems that were systematically excluded from most official Earth Day events. Left Greens and Youth Greens in the Northeast initiated a call to shut down Wall Street the Monday following Earth Day and were joined by environmental justice activists, radical Earth First! organizers, ecofeminists, New York City squatters and many others. In the early morning of April 23, just after millions had participated in polite, feel-good Earth Day commemorations all across the country, hundreds converged on the New York Stock Exchange with the goal of obstructing the opening of trading on that day. Journalist Juan González, in his Daily News column, decried the weekend’s “embalming and fire sale of Earth Day,” and told his 1.2 million readers, “Certainly, those who sought to co-opt Earth Day into a media and marketing extravaganza, to make the public feel good while obscuring the corporate root of the Earth’s pollution almost succeeded. It took angry Americans from places like Maine and Vermont to come to Wall Street on a workday and point the blame where it belongs.”

The 1990 Earth Day Wall Street Action reflected the flowering of grassroots environmental activity that had emerged throughout the 1980s, partly in response to the compromises of the big environmental groups. The popular response to toxic chemical pollution — launched by the mothers of sick children living near the severely polluted Love Canal in New York — grew into a nationwide environmental justice movement that exposed the disproportionate exposure of communities of color to toxic hazards. Earth First! grew as a decentralized network of grassroots forest defenders, using theatrical direct action, combined with acts of industrial sabotage to stem the tide of forest destruction. Others joined in solidarity with indigenous peoples’ movements around the world that had arisen in defense of traditional lands, responding to the new onslaught of neoliberal development policies. During the lead-up to Earth Day 1990, a hundred environmental justice activists signed a letter to the eight largest national environmental organizations criticizing the dearth of people of color on those groups’ staffs and boards, along with their increasing reliance on corporate funding.

The Clinton-Gore administration of the 1990s perfected the art of channeling environmental rhetoric while simultaneously encouraging increased resource extraction — prefiguring Barack Obama’s recent overtures to the nuclear, oil and coal industries.

As the decade ended, environmental activists made a strong showing in Seattle as a key part of the broader coalition of social justice, labor and green groups that successfully challenged the World Trade Organization in 1999. While many of the grassroots initiatives of the 1980s and 1990s continued (see Douglas Bevington’s new book, [The Rebirth of Environmentalism: Grassroots Activism from the Spotted Owl to the Polar Bear](#)), others felt dismayed by the ineffectiveness of large environmental groups. This led to the continued evolution of [Earth First!](#) and other radical environmental groups that focused on direct action tactics instead of lobbying and policy making. In the late 1990s, groups like the [Earth Liberation Front](#) shifted toward more secretive and aggressive types of property destruction and sabotage in defense of nature. Under G.W. Bush in 2006, the FBI announced that “environmental terrorists” were the top domestic security threat, even though no humans or animals had been harmed in any of their actions. In what became known as the “[green scare](#),” federal law enforcement agencies targeted the most radical members of the environmental movement, leaving a chilling effect on the larger green movement. At least 16 eco-militants and animal rights activists landed in federal prison, replete with “terrorism enhancements” to their sentences, as a consequence of Bush’s notorious USA Patriot Act. Also in the early 2000s, renewed grassroots campaigns aimed to reclaim urban spaces and challenge the genetic engineering of food, among many other new issues.

Over the last few years, it appeared that the climate crisis might be ushering in a renewed wave of grassroots environmental action in the United States. A 2009 student environmental conference attracted some 3,000 participants to Washington,

D.C., and the event was followed by [a symbolic blockade](#) of the city's large coal-fired power plant. On the [10th anniversary](#) of World Trade Organization protests in Seattle on November 30, 2009, climate justice actions across the United States included the lock-down of an intersection outside the Chicago Climate Exchange (home of the corporate-driven "voluntary" carbon market), a blockade of a major component for a new coal-fired power plant in South Carolina, protests of large banks that finance the coal industry and other mega-polluters, and [a rally outside](#) Natural Resources Defense Council offices to protest the group's aggressive advocacy for carbon markets. People in West Virginia and across southern Appalachia have stepped up [resistance](#) to the ravages of [mountaintop removal coal mining](#), while others across the country — from Vermont to the Navajo Nation — have redoubled their efforts against Obama's planned expansion of the nuclear industry.

Most of 2009's climate actions, however, were aimed at trying to influence U.N. member countries to reach a comprehensive agreement at the December U.N. climate conference in Copenhagen. The failure of diplomacy in Copenhagen deflated the energy of many activists, and the post-Copenhagen resurgence of climate actions has yet to materialize. Meanwhile, although Earth Day has become an annual ritual in some communities, as well as on many college campuses, the upcoming 40th anniversary has brought a notable scarcity of attention.

One event this year, just highlights how quickly corporate environmentalism has evolved from tragedy to farce. On the eve of Earth Day on April 21, participants in a "[Creating Climate Wealth Summit](#)" will attend a glitzy gala event hosted by the [Carbon War Room](#), an exclusive alliance of elite environmentalists and financiers headed by the notorious multi-billionaire Richard Branson of the Virgin Group. Branson is most celebrated these days for his experimental biofueled airplanes, along with a venture to promote outer-space tourism and public advocacy for [geoengineering the planet](#). For only \$450 (a third less for nonprofits), participants can have dinner with Branson, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, and founding Earth Day organizer Denis Hayes at the new Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, just around the corner from the White House.

Meanwhile, the green marketing of products is alive and well, from clothing, to Priuses, to luxury ecotourism. The U.K.'s Guardian reported from a "green business" conference in London last year that "as much as 70 percent of future advertising would have an environmental focus." They quoted a leading British supermarket executive questioning environmental limitations on consumer desires, arguing that such an approach simply "fails to see the enormous potential of consumers." Another Guardian story reported on a Dutch study of consumer behavior, suggesting that ethical consumer choices are made chiefly for the added social status they confer. "Researchers found consumers are willing to sacrifice luxury and performance," for example by buying a Prius instead of a Hummer, "to benefit from the perceived social status that comes from buying a product with a reduced environmental impact," they reported.

Today, right-wing pundits depict environmentalism as an elite hobby that threatens jobs, while many progressive environmentalists cite the potential for "green jobs" to help reignite economic growth. Both views are sorely missing a central element of what has made environmentalism such a compelling counter-hegemonic worldview ever since the 1970s: The promise that reorienting societies toward a renewed harmony with nature can help spur a revolutionary transformation of our world.

This outlook has helped inspire anti-nuclear activists to sit in at power plant construction sites, forest activists to sustain long-term tree-sits, and environmental justice activists to stand firm in defense of their communities. People around the world are acting in solidarity with indigenous peoples fighting resource extraction on their lands. With climate chaos looming on the horizon, such a transformation is no longer optional. Our very survival now depends on our ability to renounce the status quo and create a more humane and ecologically balanced way of life.

Brian Tokar is a director of the Vermont-based [Institute for Social Ecology](#) and a participant in the climate justice networks [Climate SOS](#) and the [Mobilization for Climate Justice](#). He is the author of several books, including [Earth for Sale: Reclaiming Ecology in the Age of Corporate Greenwash](#) (South End Press, 1997), which is the source of many of the quotes in this article.

The Independent [Articles](#) by Brian Tokar
The Independent [home page](#)
CounterPunch [home page](#)

Beyond the Limits of Earth Day: Turning Up the Heat on Climate Change Action

By Denis Hayes [article link](#) [article link](#)

Posted on April 21, 2010 Yale Environment 360

Yale Environment 360 [home page](#)

AlterNet [home page](#)

Awaken, Eaarthlings! (An Earth Day Missive)

by Jill Schneiderman [article link](#) [article link](#)

Published on Thursday, April 22, 2010 by Shambhala SunSpace

Shambhala SunSpace [home page](#)

Earth Day, Paying Dues and Shades of Green

by Rachel Smolker [article link](#)

Published on Thursday, April 22, 2010 by CommonDreams.org

No, We Can't Have It All

An Excerpt from 'Endgame, Vol. 1: The Problem of Civilization'

by Derrick Jensen [article link](#)

Published on Friday, April 23, 2010 by CommonDreams.org

CommonDreams [home page](#)

350 Degrees of Inseparability: The Good News About the Very Bad News (about Climate Change)

by Rebecca Solnit [article link](#) [article link](#)

Published on Thursday, April 22, 2010 by TomDispatch.com

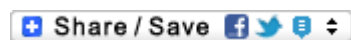
TomDispatch [home page](#)

The Open Veins of Climate Change

by Eduardo Galeano [article link](#) [article link](#)

Published on Friday, April 23, 2010 by YES! Magazine

yes! [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:21 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Thursday, April 22, 2010

James Bovard: The Slippery Definition of Extremism

What About the Government?

The Slippery Definition of Extremism

By JAMES BOVARD [article link](#)

April 22, 2010 CounterPunch

Americans are once again hearing of the perils of extremism. But the definition of this offense is slippier than a politician's campaign promise. The definition of extremism has continually been amended to permit government policies that few sober people previously advocated.

Prior to 2000, anyone who asserted that the Census Bureau was deeply involved with the roundup of Japanese-Americans for internment camps in 1942 was considered an extremist. The Census Bureau spent 60 years denying its role but finally admitted its culpability ten years ago after academics uncovered undeniable proof. Regardless of the Census Bureau's past abuses or perennial deceit, only extremists believe that their answers to this year's census could ever be used against them.

Prior to September 2001, anyone who suggested that the U.S. government lead a crusade to “rid the world of evil” would have been labeled both an extremist and a loon. But when George W. Bush promised exactly that three days after 9/11, the media cheered and his approval ratings soared.

Prior to November 2001, anyone who suggested that the president had the power to suspend the right of habeas corpus and perpetually detain anyone he accused of serious wrongdoing would have been considered an extremist. But Bush’s executive decree on enemy combatants made this the law — or at least the policy — of the land.

Prior to 2002, anyone who suggested that the U.S. government create a Total Information Awareness database of personal information on tens of millions of Americans would have been considered an extremist. But federal spy agencies rushed forward with exactly such plans, and the feds have stockpiled far more data on citizens.

Prior to April 2004, anyone who asserted that the U.S. military was torturing detainees in Iraq and Afghanistan was seen as an anti-American extremist. The leaking of the Abu Ghraib photos and official reports on abuses at Guantanamo and elsewhere proved that the extremists’ worst fear had become national policy. And when Congress effectively ratified Bush’s torture policies in the 2006 Military Commissions Act, “extremists” came to connote people who believed that American democracy had utterly disgraced itself.

Prior to the war on terror, anyone who advocated using tortured confessions in judicial proceedings would have been considered an extremist and perhaps also a medievalist. But the Justice Department and Pentagon effectively claimed a right to use confessions regardless of how they were acquired.

Prior to late 2005, anyone who asserted that the National Security Agency was routinely and massively illegally wiretapping Americans’ phone calls and email without a warrant was considered paranoid — as well as an extremist. Within weeks of the New York Times’ exposing the government’s warrantless surveillance apparatus, Republican congressmen stood and cheered during Bush’s State of the Union address when he boasted of his intrusions.

Prior to recent years, anyone who suggested that Uncle Sam should be able to take naked snapshots of all airline passengers would have been considered a lunatic, as well as an extremist. But the Transportation Security Agency, with its Whole Body X-ray systems, is doing exactly that in many airports around the nation. And the TSA’s promises that such photos will not be stored or abused are as credible as TSA’s earlier promises that no one would be delayed more than 10 minutes waiting in airport checkpoint lines.

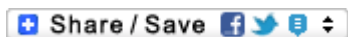
Prior to the post-9/11 era, if someone suggested that the federal government should bloat its Terrorist Watch List with more than a million names, the person would have been considered a fool and an extremist. But this is exactly what the feds have done — and that is part of the reason why the watch lists have become almost useless as well as a peril to scores of thousands of innocent Americans.

Prior to this decade, only extremists believed that the president should be permitted to order the assassination of American citizens — with no attempt to arrest or try the suspected wrongdoer. Yet, President Obama recently officially made this the national policy.

Time and again, the U.S. government has adopted policies that only extremists advocated a few years earlier. And yet, no one is supposed to think that the government has become the biggest extremist of them all.

James Bovard serves as a policy advisor for [The Future of Freedom Foundation](#) and is the author of [Attention Deficit Democracy](#), [The Bush Betrayal](#), [Terrorism and Tyranny](#), and other books.

CounterPunch [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:49 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 
[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Thomas J. DiLorenzo: In Defense of Sedition

In Defense of Sedition

by Thomas J. DiLorenzo [article link](#)

April 22, 2010 LewRockwell

Time magazine's Joe Klein recently appeared on a Sunday news show where he accused Glenn Beck and Sarah Palin of "sedition" because of their criticisms of the Obama administration's expenditure of trillions of dollars of corporate welfare in the form of bailouts; its Soviet-style nationalization of automobile, banking, student loan, and mortgage industries; its historically wild spending and borrowing binge; its forcing of socialized medicine down our throats in the face of overwhelming public opposition; and its plans to tax American capitalism into bankruptcy. Anyone who criticizes such things should be thrown into the Gulag, says Klein. Another talking head on the same television show as Klein screeched that Rush Limbaugh should also be indicted for "sedition" for the crime of criticizing King Obama.

Sedition, Joe Klein informed us (reading off of a napkin), is a threat to "the authority of the state." But the key question is: authority to do what? Does the American state have unlimited "authority" to do everything and anything the Marxist in the White House, the former senator from ACORN, can dream up? If they can nationalize automobile companies, banks, and the healthcare industry, do they also have the "authority" to nationalize the grocery industry, home building, steel manufacturing, and everything else? Joe Klein obviously believes so. In so doing, he supports the "authority" of a totalitarian state. Opposing totalitarian government is "sedition" according to Joe Klein and his fellow network "news" show talking heads.

The original design of the American government was that the only "authority" the central government was to have was powers delegated to it by the free, independent, and sovereign states in Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution. All others are the responsibility of the people, respectively, and the states, according to the Tenth Amendment, which Thomas Jefferson considered to be the cornerstone of the document. These powers were delegated to the central government for the benefit of the sovereign states, who appointed the central government as their agent – mostly for issues regarding war and foreign policy – by adopting the Constitution. That's why treason is defined by the U.S. Constitution in Article 3, Section 3, as follows: "Treason against the United States, shall consist only in waging War against them, or adhering to their Enemies, and giving them Aid and Comfort . . ." As in all the founding documents, "United States" is in the plural, signifying that the free and independent states were united in delegating certain enumerated powers for their own mutual benefit. Thus, "waging War against them" means the states. Waging war against the free and independent states is what constitutes treason under the U.S. Constitution. That's why Lincoln's invasion of the Southern states was the very definition of Treason.

As I wrote in [The Real Lincoln](#), the one unequivocal good that came of Lincoln's war was the abolition of slavery. But the worst thing that came of it – the thing that was the real purpose of the war – was the centralization of virtually all political power in Washington, D.C., and the essential death of the Jeffersonian system of states' rights or federalism that was the essence of the pre-war Constitution. After 1865, the federal government became the sole decision maker with regard to the limits of its own powers. It exercised this decision-making power through the federal judiciary and, as the Jeffersonians had always warned, it eventually declared that there were, in fact, no limits to its powers.

It didn't take long for the federal government to declare the idea of natural rights, the bedrock of the Jeffersonian philosophy of government, to be null and void. It did this by adopting the income tax in 1913, along with the creation of the vast legalized counterfeiting scheme known as the Federal Reserve. The income tax effectively declares that all earned income is the property of the state, and that the state will inform us from time to time how much of our own income we may keep to live on by setting the income tax rates. The Fed and the income tax made it possible for the government to finance a limitless explosion of statism just four years later with American entry into the worldwide disaster of World War I, which led to the most destructively bloody century in all of human history.

The income tax and the Fed finally centralized all political power in Washington, as it became trivially easy for the central state to conscript millions of men for its wars, spend mind-boggling sums on things like a welfare state and the nationalization of education that have no constitutional authority whatsoever, and to easily bribe any state government that voices the least bit of dissent by threatening to withdraw federal grants to the state. More than half of the American population is bribed and manipulated in a similar manner today as recipients of myriad federal subsidies.

By the 1930s the central state was sick and tired of what it considered to be contemptible constitutional arguments that limited the size and scope of government. FDR condemned the Constitution as the irrelevant scribbles of a lost generation, and advocated massive socialistic government intervention whereby the government would magically "guarantee" everyone a high-paying job, high food prices for farmers, a "decent home," all the medical care you could want, freedom from fear of old age, sickness, and accidents, and of course, state-funded education. This was the essence of FDR's childish wish list of an "economic bill of rights." Of course, government cannot promise anyone anything without also confiscating the income of someone else to pay for it. Nor can it "guarantee" any of FDR's pie-in-the-sky wish list unless the laws of economics are repealed, which of course they can never be.

Since states' rights had been obliterated by Lincoln's war, there was no longer any effective opposition to totalitarian-minded political hacks like FDR. He appointed enough Supreme Court judges to create a situation that, by 1937, the Court was prepared to reverse generations of prior decisions that attempted to enforce the Constitutional constraints on government. And they succeeded: According to Andrew Napolitano, author of [The Constitution in Exile](#), not a single federal law was ruled unconstitutional between 1937 and 1995. The legal scholar Bernard Siegan made the same point in [Economic Liberties and the Constitution](#). For more than seventy years, Americans have lived under a judicial dictatorship that rubber-stamps all expansions of federal power, no matter how at odds they may be with the Constitution itself. The body of "constitutional law" that has developed during this time is nothing more than a bundle of tongue-twisting legalese designed to subvert and destroy any lasting vestiges of constitutional limitations on the powers of the central state.

In short, the government in Washington, D.C. has not been a government by consent since 1865. In response to the declaration by American citizens residing in the Southern states in 1860–61 that they no longer consented to being governed by Washington, D.C., the U.S. government waged war on the entire civilian population of the South, killing some 350,000 fellow American citizens, which is more Americans than died in all other wars combined. This number includes at least 50,000 civilians. On top of that, Southern cities and towns were burned to the ground, bombed, and plundered. The plundering continued for a decade after the war during the laughingly named "reconstruction" period.

Americans – especially conservatives – delude themselves when they express the view that it might be possible to restore constitutional government. How would this happen? Who would enforce the Constitution? Why would the federal government ever give up its monopoly of constitutional interpretation and return to the pre-1865 world where all three branches of government were often given equal weight in constitutional interpretation, as well as the citizens of the free, independent and sovereign states? The central state murdered hundreds of thousands of its own citizens in order to achieve this monopoly status, and it will never just give it up.

It is the Washington establishment, which includes its media lapdogs like Joe Klein, that is guilty of sedition. The legitimate "authority" of the state is spelled out in the U.S. Constitution. It is the Washington establishment that has abandoned that legitimate authority and granted to itself essentially unlimited powers. Therefore, there can be nothing more patriotic and "American" than opposing everything the central state proposes doing that would expand its scope and powers in any way. Without any kind of constitutional constraints or meaningful citizen control, the federal government is nothing more than another criminal gang, as Murray Rothbard often said. The fact that it is a very large gang does not make it any more

legitimate. The TEA Party protesters and all others who oppose the oppression of the central state should ignore the puerile rantings of the Joe Kleins of the world and remind themselves of what Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence when he said that men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. – That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, – *That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government . . .* (emphasis added).

"TEA Party" activists claim that they are Taxed Enough Already. That's not good enough. If they took their own rhetoric about constitutional government seriously, they would recognize that what is needed is at least a 90 percent reduction in federal taxes, not merely being satisfied with being taxed "enough already."

Since such a tax reduction is not likely to be achieved with the cooperation of the Washington establishment, no matter who is elected president, the only real prospect for success is to take seriously the words of Thomas Jefferson, author of America's Declaration of Secession from the British Empire, and organize numerous peaceful secession movements. Let them have their ACORN / Democratic Socialists of America-inspired, socialist utopia on the Potomac. The rest of us can watch with great amusement as they ruin their small society, impoverish themselves, and turn it into a Third-World swamp, which is what Washington, D.C. started out as several hundred years ago.

Thomas J. DiLorenzo is professor of economics at Loyola College in Maryland and the author of [The Real Lincoln](#); [Lincoln Unmasked: What You're Not Supposed To Know about Dishonest Abe](#) and [How Capitalism Saved America](#). His latest book is [Hamilton's Curse: How Jefferson's Archenemy Betrayed the American Revolution – And What It Means for America Today](#).

Copyright © 2010 by LewRockwell.com.
LewRockwell [home page](#)

Goldman Sachs and the Mega Banks: Too Big To Obey The Law

by Simon Johnson [article link](#)

April 20, 2010

Baseline Scenario [home page](#)

Global Research [home page](#)

Break Up the Banks Bill Is Here!

By Tiffiniy Cheng [article link](#)

On April 21, 2010, In The Public

A New Way Forward [home page](#)

Brown, Kaufman Introduce The Safe Banking Act Of 2010

By: David Dayen [article link](#)

Wednesday April 21, 2010

FDL [home page](#)

Where's RICO?

by: James Howard Kunstler [article link](#) [article link](#)

Wednesday 21 April 2010 t r u t h o u t | Op-Ed

James Howard Kunstler [blog home](#)

Goldman Plays, We Pay

by: Robert Scheer [article link](#)

Thursday 22 April 2010 t r u t h o u t | Op-Ed

truthout [home page](#)

Huge Protests Planned for Showdown on Wall St. and at Banks Across the U.S. to Demand Financial Reform

By Scott Thill [article link](#)

Posted on April 22, 2010 AlterNet

The Middle Class Game Is Up: We're Heading to a Slave Labor Planet

By Joe Bageant [article link](#) [article link](#)

Posted on April 22, 2010 JoeBageant.com

Joe Bageant [home page](#)

AlterNet [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:30 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Noam Chomsky: Remembering Fascism

Remembering Fascism: Learning From the Past

by: Noam Chomsky [article link](#)

Tuesday 20 April 2010 t r u t h o u t | Op-Ed

Madison: Radical, Intellectual Retrospective, April 8, 2010

I don't have to say how pleased and grateful I am for this honor, which also offers an occasion to look back over the years. What comes to mind with particular salience is the earliest years, perhaps because I've been thinking a lot about them lately, for other reasons. They were, of course, formative years for me personally, but I think the significance unfortunately goes beyond.

I'm just old enough to have memories of Hitler's speeches on the radio 75 years ago. I didn't understand the words, but couldn't fail to grasp the menace of the tone and the cheering mobs. The first political article I wrote was in February 1939, right after the fall of Barcelona. I'm sure it was nothing memorable. I can recall a little of it, but much more clearly the mood of fear and foreboding. The article opened with the words: "Austria falls, Czechoslovakia falls, and now Barcelona falls" - and Spain with it, a few months later. The words have always stayed in my mind, along with the dread, the sense of the dark clouds of fascism gathering over Germany and then Europe and perhaps beyond, a growing force of unimaginable horror. Though no one could foresee the Holocaust, Kristallnacht had taken place just a few weeks before and the desperate flight of refugees had been building up for years, many of them unable to believe what was happening.

In those years I also had my first experience with radical intellectuals - though they wouldn't be called "intellectuals" as the term is standardly used, applying to people with status and privilege who are in a position to reach the public with thoughts about human affairs and concerns. And since privilege confers responsibility, the question always arises as to how they are using that responsibility, topics very much alive in those years in work by Erich Fromm, Russell and Dewey, Orwell, Dwight MacDonald, and others, which I soon came to know. But the radical intellectuals of my childhood were different. They were my working-class relatives in New York, mostly unemployed during the Depression, though one uncle, with a disability, had a newsstand thanks to New Deal measures and so was able to help support much of the family. My parents could, too, in a small way. As Hebrew teachers in Philadelphia, they had that rare gift of employment, so we had a stream of aunts and cousins staying with us periodically.

My New York relatives mostly had limited formal education. My uncle, who ran the newsstand and was an enormous influence on my early life, had never gone beyond fourth grade. But it was one of the most lively intellectual circles I have ever been part of, at least on the periphery as a child. There were constant discussions about the latest performance of the Budapest String Quartet, the controversies between Stekel and Freud, radical politics and activism, which was then

reaching impressive peaks. Particularly significant were the sit-down strikes, just a step short of workers taking over factories and radically changing the society - ideas that should be very much alive today.

Along with being a major factor in New Deal measures, the rising labor activism aroused great concern in the business world. Its leading figures warned about "the hazard facing industrialists [with] the rising political power of the masses," and the need to intensify "the everlasting battle for the minds of men," and instituted programs to overcome this threat to order and discipline, put aside during the war, but taken up afterward with extreme dedication and scale. The US is unusual among industrial societies in its highly class-conscious business community, relentlessly fighting a bitter class war, in earlier years with unusual levels of violence, more recently through massive propaganda offensives.

Some of my relatives were close to the Communist Party, others were bitterly anti-Communist from the left; and some, like my uncle, were anti-Bolshevik, from farther left. Among those close to the party, while there was ritual obeisance to Russia, I had the feeling that for most the focus was right here: the civil rights and labor movements, welfare reform and badly needed social change. The party was a force that did not anticipate quick victories, but was always present, ready, persistent, dedicated to moving from temporary defeat to the next struggle, something that we really lack today. It was also connected with a broader movement of workers' education and associations and, not least, an opportunity for my unemployed seamstress aunts to spend a week in the country at an ILGWU resort and other escapes from what should have been a very grim world, though I remember it from my own personal experiences - limited of course - as a time that was full of hope, quite unlike today under circumstances that are objectively much less severe.

By 1941, I was spending as much time as I could in downtown Manhattan, gravitating to another group of radical intellectuals in the small bookstores on 4th Avenue run by anarchist refugees from the Spanish revolution of 1936, or the office of the Anarchist Freie Arbeiter Stimme in Union Square nearby. They, too, didn't fit the standard formula for intellectuals. But if by the term we mean people who think seriously about life and society, their problems and possible solutions, against a background of knowledge and understanding, then they were indeed intellectuals, impressive ones. They were quite happy to spend time with a young kid who was fascinated with the 1936 anarchist revolution, which I thought then, and still think, was one of the high points of Western civilization and in some ways a beacon for a better future. I picked up a lot of material that I used 30 years later when writing about the topic, most of it not then in print.

Among the most memorable of these materials is a collection of primary documents about collectivization, published in 1937 by the CNT, the anarcho-syndicalist union that is celebrating its centenary this year. One contribution has resonated in my mind ever since, by peasants of the village of Membrilla. I would like to quote parts of it:

In [the] miserable huts [of Membrilla] live the poor inhabitants of a poor province; eight thousand people, but the streets are not paved, the town has no newspaper, no cinema, neither a café nor a library.... Food, clothing and tools were distributed equitably to the whole population. Money was abolished, work collectivized, all goods passed to the community, consumption was socialized. It was, however, not a socialization of wealth but of poverty.... The whole population lived as in a large family; functionaries, delegates, the secretary of the syndicates, the members of the municipal council, all elected, acted as heads of a family. But they were controlled, because special privilege or corruption would not be tolerated. Membrilla is perhaps the poorest village of Spain, but it is the most just.

These words, by some of the most impoverished peasants in the country, capture with rare eloquence the achievements and promise of the anarchist revolution. The achievements did not, of course, spring up from nothing. They were the outcome of many decades of struggle, experiment, brutal repression - and learning. The concept of how a just society should be organized was in the minds of the population when the opportunity arose. The experiment in creating a world of freedom and justice was crushed all too soon by the combined forces of fascism, Stalinism and liberal democracy. Global power centers understood very well that they must unite to destroy this dangerous threat to subordination and discipline before turning to the secondary task of dividing up the spoils.

In later years, I have sometimes been able to see first-hand at least a little of the lives of poor people suffering brutal repression and violence - in the miserable slums of Haiti at the peak of the terror in the early '90s, supported by Washington though the facts are still suppressed and highly relevant to today's tragedies. Or in refugee camps in Laos, where tens of thousands of people were huddled, driven from their homes by a CIA mercenary army after years of trying to survive in

caves under relentless bombing that had nothing to do with the war in Vietnam, one of the gravest atrocities of modern history, still largely unknown and still killing many people because the land is saturated with unexploded ordnance. Or in Palestine and southeastern Turkey and many other places. Among them, particularly important to me for personal reasons, is southern Colombia, where campesinos, indigenous people and Afro-Colombians are being driven from their devastated lands by terror and chemical warfare, called here "fumigation," as if we somehow have the right to destroy other countries on pretexts that we manufacture - people capable of the most miraculous sympathy and humanity, despite the awful suffering in which we play a major role, while looking the other way - though not in Madison, thanks to the work of the Colombia support group here.

One of the things I learned in the anarchist bookstores and offices 70 years ago was that I had been wrong in taking the fall of Barcelona in 1939 to be the death knell for freedom in Spain. It rang two years earlier, in May 1937, when the industrial working class was crushed by the Communist-led repression and Communist armies swept through the countryside destroying the collectives, with the assistance of the liberal democracies and with Hitler and Mussolini waiting in the wings - an immense tragedy for Spain, even though not quite the victory that the predators had anticipated.

A few years later, I left home for graduate studies at Harvard, where I had my first extensive experience with the elite intellectual world. On arrival, I went to the standard faculty-run party for incoming students and was regaled by a very distinguished philosopher with an account of the Depression - which, he assured me, had not taken place. It was a liberal fabrication. There were no rag-pickers coming to our door in desperation in the early '30s, no women workers being beaten by security forces while on strike at a textile factory that I passed on a trolley with my mother when I was about five, none of my unemployed working class relatives. A few businessmen might have suffered, but there was nothing beyond that.

I was soon to learn that this was far from an exception, but I don't want to suggest that this was typical of Harvard intellectuals. Most were Stevenson liberals, people who applauded when Stevenson said at the UN that we have to defend Vietnam from "internal aggression," from the "assault from within," as President Kennedy put it. Words that we hear again today, for example, last Sunday, in The New York Times, where we read that after the conquest of Marja in Helmand Province, the Marines have collided with a Taliban identity so dominant that the movement appears more akin to the only political organization in a one-party town, with an influence that touches everyone. "We've got to re-evaluate our definition of the word 'enemy,'" said Brig. Gen. Larry Nicholson, commander of the Marine expeditionary brigade in Helmand Province. "Most people here identify themselves as Taliban ... We have to readjust our thinking so we're not trying to chase the Taliban out of Marja, we're trying to chase the enemy out," he said.

A problem that has always bedeviled conquerors, very familiar to the US from Vietnam, where the leading US government scholar in a widely praised book lamented that the enemy within was the only "truly mass-based political party in South Vietnam" and any effort of ours to compete with it politically would be like a conflict between a minnow and a whale, so we had to overcome their political force by using our comparative advantage, violence - as we did. Others have faced similar problems: for example, the Russians in Afghanistan in the 1980s, an invasion that also elicited the outrage that we muster up for the crimes of enemies. Middle East specialist William Polk reminds us that the Russians "won many military victories and through their civic action programs they actually won over many of the villages" - and in fact, as we know from reliable sources, created substantial freedom in Kabul, particularly for women. But, to go on with Polk, "over the decade of their involvement, the Russians won almost every battle and occupied at one time or another virtually every inch of the country, but they lost ... the war. When they gave up and left, the Afghans resumed their traditional way of life."

The dilemmas faced by Obama and McChrystal are not quite the same. The enemy whom the Marines are trying to chase out of their villages have virtually no outside support. The Russian invaders, in sharp contrast, were facing a resistance that received vital support from the US, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, who were rounding up the most extreme radical Islamic fundamentalists they could find - including those terrorizing women in Kabul - and were arming them with advanced weapons, while also carrying forward the program of radical Islamization of Pakistan, yet another one of Reagan's gifts to the world, along with Pakistan's nuclear weapons. The goal of these US operations was not to defend Afghanistan. It was explained frankly by the CIA station chief in Islamabad, who was running the operations. The goal was to "kill Soviet Soldiers." He boasted that he "loved" this "noble goal," making it very clear, in his words, that "the mission was not to liberate Afghanistan," which he didn't care about. You're familiar I'm sure with Zbigniew Brzezinski's somewhat similar boasts.

By the early 1960s, I was deeply engaged in antiwar activities. I won't go into the details, though they tell us a lot about the intellectual climate, particularly in liberal Boston. By 1966, my own involvement was deep enough so that my wife went back to college to get a degree after 17 years because of the likelihood of a long prison sentence - which came very close. The trial was already announced, but canceled after the Tet offensive, which convinced the business community that the war was becoming too costly and, in any event, the major war aims had been achieved - another long story I won't go into. After the Tet offensive and the shift in official policy, it suddenly turned out that everyone had been a long-term opponent of the war - in deep silence. Kennedy memoirists rewrote their accounts to present their hero as a dove - untroubled by the radical revisions or by the extensive documentary evidence showing that JFK would consider withdrawal from a war he knew to be domestically unpopular only after victory was assured.

Even before the Tet offensive there were growing doubts in these circles, not about the sentimental notions of right and wrong that we reserve for the crimes of enemies, but about the likelihood of success in beating back the "assault from within." Perhaps, a paradigm was Arthur Schlesinger's reflections when he was beginning to be concerned that victory might not be so easily at hand. As he put it, "we all pray" that the hawks will be right and that the surge of the day will bring victory. And if it does, we will be praising the "wisdom and statesmanship" of the US government in gaining military victory while leaving "the tragic country gutted and devastated by bombs, burned by napalm, turned into a wasteland by chemical defoliation, a land of ruin and wreck," with its "political and institutional fabric" pulverized. But escalation probably won't succeed and will prove to be too costly for ourselves, so perhaps strategy should be rethought.

Little has changed today when Obama is hailed as a leading opponent of the Iraq invasion because it was a "strategic blunder," words that one could also have read in Pravda by the mid-1980s. The imperial mentality is very deeply rooted.

It is sad to say, but not false, that within the dominant spectrum the liberal imperialists are "the good guys." A likely alternative is revealed by the most recent polls. Almost half of voters say that the average Tea Party member is closer to their views than President Obama, whom fewer prefer. There's an interesting breakdown. Eighty-seven percent of those in the so-called "Political Class" say their views are closer to Obama's. Sixty-three percent of what are called "Mainstream Americans" say their views are closer to the Tea Party. On virtually all issues, Republicans are trusted by the electorate more than Democrats, in many cases by double digits. Other evidence suggests that these polls are recording distrust rather than trust. The level of anger and fear in the country is like nothing I can recall in my lifetime. And since the Democrats are in power, the revulsion over the current social-economic-political world attaches to them.

Unfortunately, these attitudes are understandable. For over 30 years, real incomes for the majority of the population have stagnated or declined, social indicators have steadily deteriorated since the mid-1970s after closely tracking growth in earlier years, work hours and insecurity have increased along with debt. Wealth has accumulated, but into very few pockets, leading to probably record inequality. These are, in large part, consequences of the financialization of the economy since the 1970s and the corresponding hollowing out of domestic production. What people see before their eyes is that the bankers who are primarily responsible for the current crisis and who were saved from bankruptcy by the public are now reveling in record profits and huge bonuses, while official unemployment stays at about 10 percent and in manufacturing is at depression levels, one in six, with good jobs unlikely to return. People rightly want answers and they are not getting them, except from voices that tell tales that have some internal coherence, but only if you suspend disbelief and enter into their world of irrationality and deceit. Ridiculing Tea Party shenanigans is a serious error, I think. It would be far more appropriate to understand what lies behind them and to ask ourselves why justly angry people are being mobilized by the extreme right and not by forces like those that did so in my childhood, in the days of formation of the CIO and other constructive activism.

To take just one illustration of the operation of really existing market democracy, Obama's primary constituency was financial institutions, which have gained such dominance in the economy that their share of corporate profits rose from a few percent in the '70s to almost one-third today. They preferred Obama to McCain and largely bought the election for him. They expected to be rewarded and were. But a few months ago, responding to rising public anger, Obama began to criticize the "greedy bankers" who had been rescued by the public and even proposed some measures to constrain them. Punishment for his deviation was swift. The major banks announced prominently that they would shift funding to Republicans if Obama persisted with his offensive rhetoric.

Obama heard the message. Within days, he informed the business press that bankers are fine "guys." He singled out for special praise the chairs of two leading beneficiaries of public largess, JP Morgan Chase and Goldman Sachs and assured the business world that, "I, like most of the American people, don't begrudge people success or wealth" - such as the bonuses and profits that are infuriating the public. "That's part of the free market system," Obama continued, not inaccurately, as the concept "free market" is interpreted in state capitalist doctrine.

This should not be a great surprise. That incorrigible radical Adam Smith, speaking of England, observed that the principal architects of power were the owners of the society, in his day the merchants and manufacturers, and they made sure that policy would attend scrupulously to their interests, however "grievous" the impact on the people of England, and, worse, the victims of "the savage injustice of the Europeans" abroad. British crimes in India were a primary concern of an old-fashioned conservative with moral values, a category that a Diogenes might search for today.

A modern and more sophisticated version of Smith's maxim is political economist Thomas Ferguson's "investment theory of politics," which takes elections to be occasions when groups of investors coalesce to invest to control the state by selecting the architects of policies who will serve their interests. It turns out to be a very good predictor of policy over long periods. That should hardly be surprising. Concentrations of economic power will naturally seek to extend their sway over any political process. It happens to be extreme in the US, as I mentioned.

There is much fevered discussion these days about whether, or when, the US is going to lose its dominant position in global affairs to China and India, the rising world powers. There is an element of truth to these laments. But apart from misconceptions about debt, deficits and the actual state of China and India, the discussions are based on a serious misconception of the nature of power and its exercise. In scholarship and public discourse, it is common to take the actors in international affairs to be states that pursue some mysterious goal called "the national interest," divorced from the internal distribution of power. Adam Smith had a sharper eye and his radical truism provides a useful corrective. Bearing it in mind, we can see that there is indeed a global shift of power, though not the one that occupies center stage: a further shift from the global work force to transnational capital, sharply escalating during the neoliberal years. The cost is substantial, including working people in the US, starving peasants in India and millions of protesting workers in China, where labor share in national income is declining even more rapidly than in most of the world.

Political economist Martin Hart-Landsberg observes that China does play a leading role in the real global shift of power, having become largely an assembly plant for a regional production system. Japan, Taiwan, and other advanced Asian economies export parts and components to China and provide most of the sophisticated technology. Chinese labor assembles it and exports it. To illustrate, a Sloan Foundation study estimated that for a \$150 iPod exported from China, about 3 percent of value added is by China, but it is counted as a Chinese export. Much concern has been aroused by the growing US trade deficit with China, but less noticed is the fact that the trade deficit with Japan and rest of Asia has sharply declined as the new regional production system takes shape. A Wall Street Journal report concluded that if value added were properly calculated, the real US-China trade deficit would decline by as much as 30 percent, while the US trade deficit with Japan would rise by 25 percent. US manufacturers are following the same course, providing parts and components for China to assemble and export, mostly back to the US. For the financial institutions, retail giants, ownership and management of manufacturing industries and sectors closely related to this nexus of power, all of this is heavenly. Not for American workers, but as Smith pointed out, their fate is not the concern of the "principal architects of policy."

It's true that there is nothing fundamentally new in the process of deindustrialization. Owners and managers naturally seek the lowest labor costs; efforts to do otherwise, famously by Henry Ford, were struck down by the courts, so now it is a legal obligation. One means is shifting production. In earlier days, the shift was mostly internal, especially to the southern states, where labor could be more harshly repressed. Major corporations, like the US steel corporation of the sainted philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, could also profit from the new slave-labor force created by the criminalization of black life after the end of Reconstruction in 1877, a core component of the American industrial revolution, continuing until World War II. It is being reproduced in part during the recent neoliberal period, with the drug war used as a pretext to drive the superfluous population, mostly black, back to the prisons, also providing a new supply of prison labor in state or private prisons, much of it in violation of international labor conventions. For many African-Americans, since they were exported to the colonies, life has scarcely escaped the bonds of slavery, or sometimes worse. More recently the shift is mostly abroad.

Returning to the charges against "greedy bankers," in fairness, we should concede that they have a valid defense. Their task is to maximize profit and market share; in fact, that's their legal obligation. If they don't do it, they'll be replaced by someone who will. These are institutional facts, as are the inherent market inefficiencies that require them to ignore systemic risk: the likelihood that transactions they enter into will harm the economy generally. They know full well that these policies are likely to tank the economy, but these externalities, as they are called, are not their business, and cannot be, not because they are bad people, but for institutional reasons. It is also unfair to accuse them of "irrational exuberance," to borrow Alan Greenspan's brief recognition of reality during the artificial tech boom of the late '90s. Their exuberance and risk taking was quite rational, in the knowledge that when it all collapses, they can flee to the shelter of the nanny state, clutching their copies of Hayek, Friedman and Rand. The government insurance policy is one of many perverse incentives that magnify the inherent market inefficiencies.

In brief, ignoring systemic risk is an inherent institutional property and perverse incentives are an application of Smith's maxim. Again, no great insight.

After the latest disaster occurred, it has been agreed by leading economists that an "emerging consensus" has developed "on the need for macroprudential supervision" of financial markets, that is, "paying attention to the stability of the financial system as a whole and not just its individual parts" (Barry Eichengreen, one of the most respected analysts and historians of the financial system). Two prominent international economists add that, "There is growing recognition that our financial system is running a doomsday cycle. Whenever it fails, we rely on lax money and fiscal policies to bail it out. This response teaches the financial sector: take large gambles to get paid handsomely and don't worry about the costs - they will be paid by taxpayers through bailouts and other devices and the financial system "is thus resurrected to gamble again - and to fail again." The system is a "doom loop," in the words of the official of the Bank of England responsible for financial stability.

Basically the same logic applies elsewhere. A year ago, the business world recognized that the insurance companies and big Pharma, in sharp defiance of the public will, had succeeded in destroying the possibility of serious health reform - a very serious matter, not only for the people who suffer from the dysfunctional health system, but even on narrow economic grounds. About half of the deficit that we are instructed to deplore is attributable to unprecedented military expenditures, rising under Obama, and most of the rest to the increasing costs of the virtually unregulated privatized health care system, unique in the industrial world, also unique in its gifts to drug companies - opposed by a mere 85 percent of the population. Last August, Business Week had a cover story celebrating the victory of the health insurance industries. Of course, no victory is enough, so they persisted in the struggle, gaining more, also against the will of the large majority of the public, another interesting story I'll have to put aside.

Observing this victory, the American Petroleum Institute, backed by the Chamber of Commerce and the other great business lobbies, announced that they are going to use the model of the health industry campaigns to intensify their massive propaganda efforts to convince the public to dismiss concerns about anthropogenic global warming. That has been done with great success; those who believe in this liberal hoax have reduced to barely a third of the population. The executives dedicated to this task know as well as the rest of us that the liberal hoax is real and the prospects grim. But they are fulfilling their institutional role. The fate of the species is an externality that they must ignore, to the extent that market systems prevail.

One of the clearest and most moving articulations of the public mood that I have seen was written by Joseph Andrew Stack, who crashed his small plane into an office building in Austin, Texas, a few weeks ago, committing suicide. He left a manifesto explaining his actions. It was mostly ridiculed, but it deserves much better, I think.

Stack's manifesto traces the life history that led him to this final desperate act. The story begins when he was a teenage student living on a pittance in Harrisburg, PA, near the heart of what was once a great industrial center. His neighbor was a woman in her '80s, surviving on cat food, the "widowed wife of a retired steel worker. Her husband had worked all his life in the steel mills of central Pennsylvania with promises from big business and the union that, for his 30 years of service, he would have a pension and medical care to look forward to in his retirement. Instead he was one of the thousands who got nothing because the incompetent mill management and corrupt union (not to mention the government) raided their pension funds and stole their retirement. All she had was social security to live on" (quoting); and Stack could have added that there have been concerted and continuing efforts by the super rich and their political allies to take even that away on spurious

grounds. Stack decided then that he couldn't trust big business and would strike out on his own, only to discover that he couldn't trust a government that cared nothing about people like him, but only about the rich and privileged, or a legal system in which, in his words, "there are two 'interpretations' for every law, one for the very rich and one for the rest of us." Or a government that leaves us with "the joke we call the American medical system, including the drug and insurance companies [that] are murdering tens of thousands of people a year," with care rationed largely by wealth, not need. All in a social order in which "a handful of thugs and plunderers can commit unthinkable atrocities ... and when it's time for their gravy train to crash under the weight of their gluttony and overwhelming stupidity, the force of the full federal government has no difficulty coming to their aid within days if not hours." And much more.

Stack tells us that his desperate final act was an effort to show that there are people willing to die for their freedom, in the hope of awakening others from their torpor. It wouldn't surprise me if he had in mind the premature death of the steel worker that taught him about the real world as a teenager. That steel worker didn't literally commit suicide after having been discarded to the trash heap, but it's far from an isolated case; we can add his and many similar cases to the colossal toll of the institutional crimes of state capitalism.

There are poignant studies of the indignation and rage of those who have been cast aside as the state-corporate programs of financialization and deindustrialization have closed plants and destroyed families and communities. They reveal the sense of acute betrayal on the part of working people who believed they had fulfilled their duty to society in a moral compact with business and government, only to discover that they had been only instruments for profit and power, truisms from which they had been carefully protected by doctrinal institutions.

Reading Joe Stack's manifesto and a great deal more like it, I find myself recovering childhood memories and much more that I did not then understand. The Weimar Republic was the peak of western civilization in the sciences and the arts, also regarded as a model of democracy. Through the 1920s, the traditional liberal and conservative parties entered into inexorable decline, well before the process was intensified by the Great Depression. The coalition that elected General Hindenburg in 1925 was not very different from the mass base that swept Hitler into office eight years later, compelling the aristocratic Hindenburg to select as chancellor the "little corporal" he despised. As late as 1928, the Nazis had less than 3 percent of the vote. Two years later, the most respectable Berlin press was lamenting the sight of the many millions in this "highly civilized country" who had "given their vote to the commonest, hollowest and crudest charlatanism." The public was becoming disgusted with the incessant wrangling of Weimar politics, the service of the traditional parties to powerful interests and their failure to deal with popular grievances. They were drawn to forces dedicated to upholding the greatness of the nation and defending it against invented threats in a revitalized, armed and unified state, marching to a glorious future, led by the charismatic figure who was carrying out "the will of eternal Providence, the Creator of the universe," as he orated to the mesmerized masses. By May 1933, the Nazis had largely destroyed not only the traditional ruling parties, but even the huge working-class parties, the Social Democrats and Communists, along with their very powerful associations. The Nazis declared May Day 1933 to be a workers holiday, something the left parties had never been able to achieve. Many working people took part in the enormous patriotic demonstrations, with more than a million people at the heart of Red Berlin, joining farmers, artisans, shopkeepers, paramilitary forces, Christian organizations, athletic and riflery clubs, and the rest of the coalition that was taking shape as the center collapsed. By the onset of the war, perhaps 90 percent of Germans were marching with the brown shirts.

As I mentioned, I am just old enough to remember those chilling and ominous days of Germany's descent from decency to Nazi barbarism, to borrow the words of the distinguished scholar of German history Fritz Stern. He tells us that he has the future of the United States in mind when he reviews "a historic process in which resentment against a disenchanting secular world found deliverance in the ecstatic escape of unreason."

The world is too complex for history to repeat, but there are nevertheless lessons to keep in mind. There is no shortage of tasks for those who choose the vocation of critical intellectuals, whatever their station in life. They can seek to sweep away the mists of carefully contrived illusion and reveal the stark reality. They can become directly engaged in popular struggles, helping to organize the countless Joe Stacks who are destroying themselves and maybe the world and to join them in leading the way the way to a better future.

Noam Chomsky, who has taught linguistics at MIT since 1955, has revolutionized the scientific study of language. A prolific author and activist, Chomsky has weighed in on all major political issues of the last five decades. His most recent book, "[Hopes and Prospects](#)", a survey of the dangers and prospects of our early twenty-first century, [is available on Amazon.com](#) and elsewhere.

truthout [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:49 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Adele M. Stan: Low Turnout at Gun March

Low Turnout at Gun March the NRA's Fault, Organizer Says

By Adele M. Stan [article link](#)

Posted on April 21, 2010 AlterNet

Given the long build-up to Monday's Second Amendment March on Washington, the result was a bit anti-climactic: a couple of thousand gun-owners assembled in front of a stage facing the Washington Monument. If only the National Rifle Association had given organizers a little support, said march founder Skip Coryell, there would have been at least 10 times the number of people assembled. "They let us down on this one," he said.

The march, Coryell said, cost his group about \$80,000 -- a high price for the 2,000 or so people I estimate gathered at the event's peak. That brings the cost per participant to something like \$400.

Sponsors for the march included the United States Conceal Carry Association (at the platinum level), Larry Pratt's Gun Owners of America (at the gold level), the online ammunition store LuckyGunner.com (at the silver level), and several advocacy groups at the "patriot" level, including Oath Keepers, whose founder, Stewart Rhodes, recently accused progressive reporters, including Rachel Maddow and Mother Jones' Justine Sharrock, of being in league with the federal government in a CoInTelPro-style smear campaign against his organization. (See AlterNet's report here, including our exclusive interview with Rhodes.)

Take a few minutes with Coryell, and you'll find a charming, affable man in his 40s, with straight, sandy hair cut in a mop-top style. He complained that people want to paint his gun-rights movement with a single brush, to put everybody in the same "box." The father of six -- including a five-month-old son -- is a stay-at-home dad. "My wife, she's an engineer; she supports me," he explained. "That doesn't fit in peoples' box," he said.

"I carry a gun to protect my family," he told me. "That's the only reason I do it. It isn't any fun to carry this five-pound gun around," he said, pointing to where a holster would be resting if he were not in Washington, D.C., where the District of Columbia gun laws rendered the Second Amendment March unarmed.

"Especially if you're carrying a kid around on the other hip," I offered.

I noted that the march, and his movement, appears to be composed almost exclusively of white people.

"It's not about white-black. It's urban versus rural," he said.

Yet prominently featured on the program was Larry Pratt, credited by many with being the father of the modern militia movement, who was famously kicked off Pat Buchanan's 1996 presidential campaign when it was revealed that Pratt had [addressed a group of white supremacists](#) in 1992 in Este, Colorado.

Speaking to the crowd assembled on the monument grounds on Monday, Pratt seemed to have more on his mind than simply protecting his family. He was particularly miffed at former President Bill Clinton's [remarks](#) earlier in the week that calls to violence against the government were inherently dangerous. Another figure who attracts the ire of many gun-rights

advocates is Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, who was that day addressing a ceremony in Oklahoma City commemorating the 15th anniversary of the bombing of the federal Alfred Murrah building by the anti-government extremist Timothy McVeigh, an act that killed 168 people.

"I look around: it's so good to see all these terrorists out here," Pratt said. "Janet Napolitano, she figured, as governor of Arizona, that we didn't have a border problem, but she knows who the real enemy is. Ha, ha, ha, ha. And Bill Clinton's been runnin' cover for her, too. Watch out how you guys speak out there, you know, words can have consequences. Remember Oklahoma City? Yeah, I do. And I also remember the Waco barbecue that your attorney general gave us. Thanks a lot... We're in a war. The other side knows they're at war, because they started it. They're comin' for our freedom, for our money, for our kids, for our property. They're comin' for everything because they're a bunch of socialists."

McVeigh contended that his murderous actions were retribution for the FBI's storming of the Branch Davidian complex in Waco, Texas, which led to the death of 75 people, most by fire. (It remains unclear whether the fires were the result of the assault, which involved a tank, or set by the occupants themselves.) McVeigh chose April 19th for his bombing of the Murrah building because it was the anniversary of the final day of the Waco siege.

I asked Coryell whether or not he thought the NRA withheld its support because of the decision to hold the march on the controversial date of April 19th.

"No," he said. "I think it's because they see us as a competing entity. The NRA -- they're very political. They're strong, they're big, they're powerful...they have a big lobby. And they didn't want to share a piece of the pie. We went to them and said, 'You know, it's going to cost us like \$80,000 to do this.' [And they said,] 'Well, sorry.'...I support them, but they let us down. They let us down on this one. There should have been 20,000 people here. If the NRA had supported us, there would have been."

NRA officials declined comment for this article. But also taking the stage at the Second Amendment March was Georgia Congressman Paul Broun, for whom the NRA was one of his top 20 contributors in his 2008 race. (It doesn't take a lot to make it into that club; the NRA's contribution was \$7,950, [according to OpenSecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org).)

Like Pratt, Broun, a Republican, sees civil war looming on the horizon. "Fellow patriots, we have a lot of domestic enemies of the Constitution, and they're right down the Mall in the Congress of the United States -- and right down Independence Avenue in the White House that belongs to us," Broun told the crowd. "It's not about my ability to hunt, which I love to do. It's not about the ability for me to protect my family and property against criminals, which we have the right to do. But it's all about us protecting ourselves from a tyrannical government of the United States."

Government workers and their union representatives are getting nervous. John Gage, president of the American Federation of Government Employees (a union for which I worked from 2001-2005), told a gathering of reporters last month that his members are getting concerned about the degree of anti-government rhetoric. "Some of our members were killed in Oklahoma City," he said.

The NRA has so far contributed only \$1,000 to Broun's re-election campaign.

As an example of the gun movement's diversity, Coryell pointed to Nicki Stallard, a member of the Pink Pistols, an LGBT gun-rights organization that Stallard told me was formed in response to gay-bashing. Given the fact that LGBT people -- or people who merely appear to be gay -- continue to be killed in vigilante murders ([this recent Brooklyn case](#) is stomach-turning) -- I found it hard not to feel a twinge of sympathy, especially as a member of the LGBT community myself. But on the stage, Stallard, after hailing the march as "a lovefest," ominously turned on a member of our own community for her criticism of the gun-rights movement.

"There's a certain reporter who made comments: Rachel Maddow," she said. "All I can say is, it's a good thing that this is a lovefest. Otherwise, we'd tar and feather you."

Even the easy-going Coryell, with his earlier insistence that his gun was all about protecting his family, later admitted, well, there was a bit more to it than that. He compared having a gun to purchasing fire insurance, even though the odds weren't high that your house would burn down. But what about the concerns speakers expressed about government, I asked. Did Coryell perceive a threat to his rights from the government?

"To some degree, yes," he replied.

"Just because they have all the guns?" I asked.

"Well, they do have all the guns," he said. "You know, the Founding Fathers, they put the Second Amendment there because they distrusted the government. I have nothing against the government, but it's like when it gets so big -- bigger and bigger and bigger and bigger and bigger -- that's what people are afraid of."

But where does it stop? Should you be allowed to keep a Howitzer in your back yard?

"Let's say 10 years down the road," he said, "they start going door-to-door to collect guns. You know, there's 80 million gun-owners. If they were to totally snip our freedom away, there would be a Civil War, without a doubt. And if that were to happen, I would be out there in the woods with my rifle. God forbid that that should happen. I'm here today so it doesn't come to that."

"Fellow patriots, we have a lot of domestic enemies of the Constitution, and they're right down the Mall in the Congress of the United States -- and right down Independence Avenue in the White House that belongs to us. It's not about my ability to hunt, which I love to do. It's not about the ability for me to protect my family and property against criminals, which we have the right to do. But it's all about us protecting ourselves from a tyrannical government of the United States." Rep. Paul Broun, R-Ga.

"[T]here is a basic line dividing criticism [of the government] to violence or its advocacy...What we learned from Oklahoma City is...that words really do matter, because there's this vast echo-chamber and they go across space and they fall on the serious and the delirious alike. They fall on the connected and the unhinged alike." Bill Clinton

Adele M. Stan is AlterNet's Washington bureau chief.

© 2010 Independent Media Institute. All rights reserved.

7 Tricks Teabaggers Will Use to Conceal Their Extreme Right-Wing Beliefs

By Christopher Deis [article link](#)

Posted on April 21, 2010 AlterNet

AlterNet [home page](#)

SPLC Publishes Patriot Hit List

By Chuck Baldwin [article link](#) [article link](#)

April 21, 2010 NewsWithViews.com

NewsWithViews [home page](#)

Oath Keepers [home page](#)

SPLC Report [publication page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:30 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Jeremy Rifkin: Why Is the US Becoming So Uncivil?

The Media and Extremists Are Fanning the Flames of Hatred -- Why Is the US Becoming So Uncivil?

By Jeremy Rifkin [article link](#)

Posted on April 21, 2010 AlterNet

Editor's Note: AlterNet has launched its new [Vision section](#), to help grapple with the unprecedented challenges of our time. Every day, we'll have a new vision article on our front page -- [Subscribe to our weekly Vision newsletter](#) to stay on top of the coverage.

The following is an adapted excerpt from Jeremy Rifkin's new book, '[The Empathic Civilization: The Race to Global Consciousness in a World in Crisis](#)' (Tarcher/Penguin; January 2010).

President Obama has made an unprecedented pleas for civility in public discourse. Washington insiders say they can't ever recall a period in American public life as full of anger and polarization as now. TV and radio talk show hosts, in particular, have fanned the flames of hatred with occasional outrageous personal attacks on public figures and advocates of policy agendas with which they disagree. If we continue along this toxic road, it could lead to unfathomable damage to the American psyche. The question is "Why is The United States becoming so uncivil"?

When we talk about civility, we are really talking about empathy: the willingness to listen to another's point of view, to put one's self in another's shoes and to emotionally and cognitively experience what they are feeling and thinking. To civilize is to empathize.

Below all of the fiery rhetoric and finger pointing, the acid comments and degrading personal attacks, is a deep-seated fear and mistrust of the "the other" - in other words, a lack of empathy.

My sense is that the fear that is spreading like a wild fire across America is due, in large part, to a seismic shift occurring in our thinking about the most cherished values of American life: our notions of freedom, equality, and democracy. In other words, what we are really discussing- underneath the surface of the political and ideological debates- are our beliefs about the basic drives and aspirations of human beings.

Freedom in the nation state era has been closely associated with the ability to control one's labor and secure one's property, because that is the way to optimize pleasure and be happy. The classical economists argued that every individual is free to the extent he or she can pursue their individual self- interest in the material world. Freedom, in the rational mode, is the freedom to be autonomous and independent and to be an island to one's self. To be free is to be rational, detached, acquisitive, and utilitarian. The role of government, in turn, is to safeguard private property relations and allow market forces to operate, unfettered by political constraints. The conventional American dream is personal opportunity to succeed in the marketplace.

The empathic approach to freedom in the emerging Biosphere Age is based on a different premise. Freedom means being able to optimize the full potential of one's life, and the fulfilled life is one of companionship, affection, and belonging, made possible by ever deeper and more meaningful personal experiences and relationships with others--across neighborhoods, continents and the world. One is free, then, to the extent that one has been nurtured and raised in a global society that allows for empathetic opportunities at every level of human discourse. The new dream is the quality of life of humanity.

The litmus test for which definition of freedom is more salient is the deathbed judgment. When looking back on one's life, few would measure the meaning of their existence in terms of the money they amassed or the autonomy they achieved. In fact, as we've learned, greater wealth and autonomy tend to isolate one from meaningful relationships with others. Our lived reality becomes more insular and restricted and our lives more lonely. When near death, most people reminisce about the experiences of deep connections they had with others-- family, friends, and colleagues. It is the empathetic moments in one's life that are the most powerful memories and the experiences that comfort and give a sense of connection, participation, and meaning to one's sojourn.

These two very distinct ideas about freedom are accompanied by two very different ideas about the nature of strength and what it means to be courageous. When we think of freedom, we generally associate it with being independent. We go so far as to equate freedom with invulnerability, the totally self-contained person glorified in the sagas of the American frontier. The pioneers, mountain men, and cowboys, who set out alone to tame the wilderness, are romanticized as truly free spirits.

The empathic school takes a different approach, asserting that real freedom requires that one exercise vulnerability rather than invulnerability. If freedom is the ability to live out the full potential of one's possibilities and if the measure of one's life is the intimacy, range, and diversity of one's relationships, then the more vulnerable one is, the more open he or she will be to creating meaningful and intimate relationships with others. Vulnerable in this sense does not mean being weak, a victim or prey but, rather, being open to communication at the deepest level of human exchange.

To be vulnerable is to trust one's fellow human beings. Trust is the belief that others will treat you as an end not as a means, that you will not be used or manipulated to serve the expedient motives of others but regarded as a valued being. When one is treated by others as an end, not as a means, one becomes truly free. One can't really be free in a world where everyone mistrusts each other. In such a world, freedom is immediately reduced to a negative, the ability to close oneself off from others and be an island unto oneself. Authoritarian societies that promote paranoia and mistrust and pit each against the other, squash the spirit of freedom.

The idea of freedom has also historically gone in tandem with the idea of equality. The American and French revolutionaries viewed the two ideas as inextricably linked. They became the alpha and omega of the New Order of the Ages. Equality, in the rationalist mode, is a calculable legal phenomenon. Laws are enacted to guarantee political sovereignty, individual civil rights, and market access.

The empathic philosophers define equality more in psychological terms. They ask how one comes to think of others as equal to themselves and vice versa. They view empathetic extension as the great leveler, the force that breaks down the myriad forms of status and distinctions that separate people into subjects and objects. They remind us that as long as equality is narrowly measured in material terms--the opportunity to succeed in the marketplace, even if it's by merit rather than by hereditary claims--the end result will always be defined in terms of "mine" versus "thine." Wealth and professional and academic distinctions will continue to create status distinctions and divide one from another.

Empathic extension is the only human expression that creates true equality between people. When one empathizes with another, distinctions begin to melt away. The very act of identifying with another's struggle as if it were one's own is the ultimate expression of a sense of equality. One can't really empathize unless one's being is on the same emotional plane as another. If someone feels superior or inferior in status to another and therefore different and alien, it becomes difficult to experience their plight or joy as one's own. One might feel sympathetic to others or feel sorry for them or take pity on them, but to experience real empathy for another requires feeling and responding "as if" you "are" that person.

That doesn't mean that empathetic moments erase status and distinctions. It only means that in the moment one extends the empathic embrace, the other social barriers--wealth, education, and professional status--are temporarily suspended in the act of experiencing, comforting, and supporting another's struggle as if their life were one's own. The feeling of equality being expressed is not about equal legal rights or economic entitlements but the idea that another being is just like us in being unique and mortal and deserving of the right to prosper.

Status hierarchies are, of course, designed to create inequalities. Status is about rankings and the claiming of authority over others. Every society establishes various boundaries of exclusion. A highly stratified society generally is low on empathetic consciousness because such societies are segmented between so many status categories that the ability to empathize beyond one's own group, both up and down the hierarchy, is limited.

The ability to recognize oneself in the other and the other in oneself is a deeply democratizing experience. Empathy is the soul of democracy. It is an acknowledgment that each life is unique, unalienable, and deserving of equal consideration in the public square. The evolution of empathy and the evolution of democracy have gone hand in hand throughout history. The more empathic the culture, the more democratic its values and governing institutions. The less empathic the culture, the more totalitarian its values and governing institutions. While apparent, it's strange how little attention has been paid to the

inextricable relationship between empathic extension and democratic expansion in the study of history and evolution of governance.

Reimagining freedom, equality, and democracy from an empathic perspective has far-ranging consequences for the kind of society that we choose to live in. We would need to rethink our parenting styles, educational systems, business practices and, even governance itself to reflect our empathic nature. This would constitute nothing less than a cultural revolution.

No one would deny that there is merit to our long-standing ideas about freedom, equality and democracy-especially the notions of personal responsibility, self-sufficiency, and the protection of basic economic and political rights. Still, it's hard to deny the fact that a younger generation is beginning to broaden and deepen its sense of freedom, equality and democracy in an increasingly interconnected, interdependent and collaborative world.

Perhaps what is needed is a more transparent public debate around our core views of freedom, equality and democracy. Maybe it is time to suggest a moratorium on the hyperbolic political rhetoric and incivility and begin a civil conversation around our differing views on human nature. This would offer us a moment in time to listen to each other, share our feelings, thoughts, concerns and aspirations, with the goal of trying to better understand each others' perspectives, and hopefully find some emotional and cognitive common ground.

© 2010 Independent Media Institute. All rights reserved.

AlterNet [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:42 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

[Christopher Layne: The End of Pax Americana](#)

Graceful Decline

The End of Pax Americana

By Christopher Layne [article link](#) [article link](#)

April 20, 2010 "American Conservative"

The United States emerged from World War II in a position of global dominance. From this unparalleled military and economic power came a Pax Americana that has endured for more than six decades. It seemed the sun would never set on the U.S. empire.

But America is increasingly unable to play the hegemon's assigned role. Militarily, a hegemon is responsible for stabilizing key regions and guarding the global commons. Economically, it offers public goods by opening its domestic market to other states, supplying liquidity for the world economy, and providing the reserve currency. A hegemon is supposed to solve international crises, not cause them. It is supposed to be the lender of last resort, not the biggest borrower. Faced with wars it cannot win or quit and an economy begging rescue, the United States no longer fits the part.

Still, many in the mainstream foreign-policy community see these as temporary setbacks and believe that U.S. primacy will endure for years to come. The American people are awakening to a new reality more quickly than the academy. According to a December 2009 Pew survey, 41 percent of the public believes that the U.S. plays a less important and powerful role as a world leader than it did a decade ago.

The epoch of American dominance is drawing to a close, and international politics is entering a period of transition: no longer unipolar but not yet fully multipolar. President Barack Obama's November 2009 trip to China provided both substantive and emblematic evidence of the shift. As the Financial Times observed, "Coming at a moment when Chinese

prestige is growing and the U.S. is facing enormous difficulties, Mr. Obama's trip has symbolized the advent of a more multi-polar world where U.S. leadership has to co-exist with several rising powers, most notably China." In the same Pew study, 44 percent of Americans polled said that China was the leading economic power; just 27 percent chose the United States.

Much of America's decline can be attributed to its own self-defeating policies, but as the U.S. stumbles, others—notably China, India, and Russia—are rising. This shift in the global balance of power will dramatically affect international politics: the likelihood of intense great-power security competitions—and even war—will increase; the current era of globalization will end; and the post-1945 Pax Americana will be replaced by an international order that reflects the interests, values, and norms of emerging powers.

China's economy has been growing much more rapidly than the United States' over the last two decades and continues to do so, maintaining audacious 8 percent growth projections in the midst of a global recession. Leading economic forecasters predict that it will overtake the U.S. as the world's largest economy, measured by overall GDP, sometime around 2020. Already in 2008, China passed the U.S. as the world's leading manufacturing nation—a title the United States had enjoyed for over a century—and this year China will displace Japan as the world's second-largest economy. Everything we know about the trajectories of rising great powers tells us that China will use its increasing wealth to build formidable military power and that it will seek to become the dominant power in East Asia.

Optimists contend that once the U.S. recovers from what historian Niall Ferguson calls the "Great Depression"—not quite a depression but more than a recession—we'll be able to answer the Chinese challenge. The country, they remind us, faced a larger debt-GDP ratio after World War II yet embarked on an era of sustained growth. They forget that the postwar era was a golden age of U.S. industrial and financial dominance, trade surpluses, and persistent high growth rates. Those days are gone. The United States of 2010 and the world in which it lives are far different from those of 1945.

Weaknesses in the fundamentals of the American economy have been accumulating for more than three decades. In the 1980s, these problems were acutely diagnosed by a number of writers—notably David Calleo, Paul Kennedy, Robert Gilpin, Samuel Huntington, and James Chace—who predicted that these structural ills would ultimately erode the economic foundations of America's global preeminence. A spirited late-1980s debate was cut short, when, in quick succession, the Soviet Union collapsed, Japan's economic bubble burst, and the U.S. experienced an apparent economic revival during the Clinton administration. Now the delayed day of reckoning is fast approaching.

Even in the best case, the United States will emerge from the current crisis with fundamental handicaps. The Federal Reserve and Treasury have pumped massive amounts of dollars into circulation in hope of reviving the economy. Add to that the \$1 trillion-plus budget deficits that the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) predicts the United States will incur for at least a decade. When the projected deficits are bundled with the persistent U.S. current-account deficit, the entitlements overhang (the unfunded future liabilities of Medicare and Social Security), and the cost of the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, there is reason to worry about the United States' fiscal stability. As the CBO says, "Even if the recovery occurs as projected and the stimulus bill is allowed to expire, the country will face the highest debt/GDP ratio in 50 years and an increasingly unsustainable and urgent fiscal problem."

The dollar's vulnerability is the United States' geopolitical Achilles' heel. Its role as the international economy's reserve currency ensures American preeminence, and if it loses that status, hegemony will be literally unaffordable. As Cornell professor Jonathan Kirshner observes, the dollar's vulnerability "presents potentially significant and underappreciated restraints upon contemporary American political and military predominance."

Fears for the dollar's long-term health predated the current financial and economic crisis. The meltdown has amplified them and highlighted two new factors that bode ill for continuing reserve-currency status. First, the other big financial players in the international economy are either military rivals (China) or ambiguous allies (Europe) that have their own ambitions and no longer require U.S. protection from the Soviet threat. Second, the dollar faces an uncertain future because of concerns that its value will diminish over time. Indeed, China, which has holdings estimated at nearly \$2 trillion, is worried that America will leave it with huge piles of depreciated dollars. China's vote of no confidence is reflected in its recent calls to create a new reserve currency.

In coming years, the U.S. will be under increasing pressure to defend the dollar by preventing runaway inflation. This will require it to impose fiscal self-discipline through some combination of budget cuts, tax increases, and interest-rate hikes. Given that the last two options could choke off renewed growth, there is likely to be strong pressure to slash the federal budget.

But it will be almost impossible to make meaningful cuts in federal spending without deep reductions in defense expenditures. Discretionary non-defense domestic spending accounts for only about 20 percent of annual federal outlays. So the United States will face obvious “guns or butter” choices. As Kirshner puts it, the absolute size of U.S. defense expenditures are “more likely to be decisive in the future when the U.S. is under pressure to make real choices about taxes and spending. When borrowing becomes more difficult, and adjustment more difficult to postpone, choices must be made between raising taxes, cutting non-defense spending, and cutting defense spending.” Faced with these hard decisions, Americans will find themselves afflicted with hegemony fatigue.

The United States will be compelled to overhaul its strategy dramatically, and rather than having this adjustment forced upon it suddenly by a major crisis, the U.S. should get ahead of the curve by shifting its position in a gradual, orderly fashion. A new American global posture would involve strategic retrenchment, burden-shifting, and abandonment of the so-called “global counterinsurgency” being waged in Afghanistan and Iraq.

As a first step, the U.S. will need to pull back from its current security commitments to NATO, Japan, and South Korea. This is not isolationism. The United States undertook the defense of these regions under conditions very different from those prevailing today. In the late 1940s, all were threatened by the Soviet Union—in the case of South Korea and Japan, by China as well—and were too weak to defend themselves. The U.S. did the right thing by extending its security umbrella and “drawing a line in the sand” to contain the Soviet Union. But these commitments were never intended to be permanent. They were meant as a temporary shield to enable Western Europe, Japan, and South Korea to build up their own economic and military strength and assume responsibility for defending themselves.

There are several explanations for why the U.S. did not follow through with this policy. Fundamentally, during the Pax Americana there was no need. As the U.S. declines, however, it will be compelled to return to its original intent. If we remember that an eventual pullback was the goal of U.S. policy, strategic retrenchment in the early 21st century looks less like a radical break than a fulfillment of strategic goals adopted in the late 1940s.

Burden-shifting—not burden-sharing—is the obvious corollary of strategic retrenchment. American policy should seek to compel our allies to assume responsibility for their own security and take the lead role in providing security in their regions. To implement this strategic devolution, the U.S. should disengage gradually from its current commitments in order to give an adequate transition period for its allies to step up to the plate. It should facilitate this transition by providing advanced weapons and military technology to friendly states in Europe and Asia.

With respect to Islamic terrorism, we need to keep our priorities straight. Terrorism is not the most pressing national-security threat facing the United States. Great powers can be defeated only by other great powers—not by nonstate terrorists or by minor powers. The U.S. needs to be careful not to pay more attention to Islamic terrorists than to emerging great powers. Here the Obama administration and Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates are getting it wrong.

Although many in the U.S. foreign-policy community—especially the counterinsurgency lobby, based at the Center for a New American Security, and the American Enterprise Institute—call for the U.S. to “win” the war on terror, there can be no decisive victory over terrorism. The trick is finding the right strategy to minimize its effects on American security. The strategy of the Bush and Obama administrations—invading and occupying Iraq and Afghanistan—is exactly the wrong approach. The U.S. is bad at counterinsurgency. Foreign occupying powers seldom are good at it, which is the main reason big powers usually lose these kinds of small wars. The U.S. also is not good at nation-building. Rather than quelling terrorism, a long-term foreign military presence in places like Iraq and Afghanistan inflames nationalism and anti-Americanism.

The Nobel Prize-winning Columbia University economist Joseph Stiglitz and his co-author Linda Bilmes have estimated that the direct and indirect costs of the Iraq War will exceed \$3 trillion. No similar projection of the Afghanistan war’s costs

exists. But the Obama administration's fall 2009 internal debate about whether to increase troop levels in Afghanistan offered a preview of coming attractions. During these deliberations, some officials argued that the U.S. needed to limit its commitment because the cost of the war effort has serious budgetary implications. According to the New York Times, when presented with an OMB projection that showed existing troop deployments and nation-building expenses combined with the cost of sending an additional 40,000 troops to Afghanistan for a decade would total \$1 trillion, "the president seemed in sticker shock, watching his domestic agenda vanishing in front of him."

That the United States needs a post-Pax Americana foreign policy should be obvious. But there is no guarantee that the U.S. will adjust to a transforming world. Even as the globe is being turned upside down by material factors, the foreign policies of individual states are shaped by the ideas leaders hold about their own nations' identity and place in world politics. More than most, America's foreign policy is the product of such ideas, and U.S. foreign-policy elites have constructed their own myths of empire to justify the United States' hegemonic role. To move successfully to a post-Pax Americana foreign policy, Americans will need to move beyond these myths.

The foundational American myth of empire is exceptionalism, the belief, dating back to the Puritans, that the U.S. is different, better, and morally superior to the rest of the world. Americans have always looked at the outside world suspiciously and viewed it as a source of contagion: war, imperialism, militarism, religious intolerance, non-democratic forms of governance, and latterly totalitarianism, genocide, and terrorism. All these bad things, we believe, come from "over there."

We have long thought that we cannot live safely in a world of such imperfections and that it is therefore our national duty to cure these ills by using American power to construct a world order based on our values. U.S. foreign-policy elites have extrapolated from our national experience and concluded, as Edmund Stillman and William Pfaff wrote some 45 years ago, that the United States is a model for the world and "America's wants and values are universal"—a point George W. Bush made repeatedly in justifying his policy of exporting democracy at the point of a bayonet. Americans believe that our political and economic systems provide "a prototypical solution for the world's disorders." If we could just give the rest of the world a makeover so it looked like the United States, all would be well.

These assumptions invest American foreign policy with a tendency to see the world in terms of good versus evil. And because the U.S. looks through this prism, it believes it has the obligation to prevail in this global struggle. America's security and way of life are purportedly endangered by the existence of hostile ideologies anywhere in the world because peace and freedom are allegedly indivisible. Intervention is thus the United States' default in foreign policy.

We attempt to tame the world by exporting democracy because—we are told—democracies do not fight each other. We export our model of free-market capitalism because—we are told—states that are economically interdependent do not fight each other. We work multilaterally through international institutions because—we are told—these promote cooperation and trust among states. None of these propositions is self-evident. Indeed, there is overwhelming evidence that they are wrong. But they are illusions that "express the deepest beliefs which Americans, as a nation, hold about the world." So we cling to the idea that our hegemony is necessary for our own and everyone else's security. The consequence has been to contribute to the very imperial overstretch that is accelerating the United States' decline.

Because that U.S. enjoyed such vast superiority for such a long time, it had the luxury of acting on its delusions without paying too high a price. (That is, if you discount the 58,000 names on the Vietnam Memorial or the tens of thousands of U.S. military personnel who have suffered disfiguring wounds or been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.) But as my graduate school mentor, Kenneth Waltz, one of the towering figures in the study of international politics, used to tell us about American foreign policy, "When you are big, strong, and powerful, you can afford to make the same dumb mistakes over and over again. But when your power declines, you begin to pay a price for repeating your mistakes."

U.S. decline means that in the 21st century, the United States will pay a high price if it endlessly repeats its mistakes. To change our foreign policy—to come to grips with the end of the Pax Americana—we first need to change the way we see the world.

Christopher Layne is Professor and Robert M. Gates Chair in National Security at Texas A&M's George H.W. Bush School of Government & Public Service. He is author of *The Peace of Illusions: American Grand Strategy from 1940 to the Present* and, with Bradley A. Thayer, *American Empire: A Debate*.

Copyright The American Conservative

The American Conservative [home page](#)
Information Clearing House [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:22 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Mark Jurgensmeyer: The Return of Christian Terrorism

The Return of Christian Terrorism

By Mark Jurgensmeyer [article link](#)

Posted on April 15, 2010 ReligionDispatches

When Scott Roeder, the murderer of Wichita Kansas abortion clinic provider Dr. George Tiller, had his day in court, he spent much of his rambling self-defense quoting the words of another abortion clinic assassin, [Reverend Paul Hill](#). In the 1990s my own research had brought me into conversation with others in the inner circle in which Hill and Roeder were at that time involved. So it was a chilling experience for me to realize that this awful mood of American Christian terrorism—culminating in the catastrophic attack on the Oklahoma City Federal Building—has now returned.

Christian terrorism has returned to America with a vengeance. And it is not just Roeder. When members of the Hutaree militia in Michigan and Ohio recently were arrested with plans to kill a random policeman and then plant Improvised Explosive Devices in the area where the funeral would be held to kill hundreds more, this was a terrorist plot of the sort that would impress Shi'ite militia and al Qaeda activists in Iraq. The [Southern Poverty Law Center](#), founded by Morris Dees, which has closely watched the rise of right-wing extremism in this country for many decades, declares that threats and incidents of right-wing violence have risen 200% in this past year—unfortunately coinciding with the tenure of the first African-American president in US history. When Chip Berlet, one of this country's best monitors of right-wing extremism, warned in [a perceptive essay](#) last week on RD that the hostile right-wing political climate in this country has created the groundwork for a demonic new form of violence and terrorism, I fear that he is correct.

Christian Warrior, Sacred Battle

Though these new forms of violence are undoubtedly political and probably racist, they also have a religious dimension. And this brings me back to what I know about Rev. Paul Hill, the assassin who the similarly misguided assassin, Scott Roeder, quoted at length in that Wichita court room last week. In 1994, Hill, a Presbyterian pastor at the extreme fringe of the anti-abortion activist movement, came armed to a clinic in Pensacola, Florida. He aimed at Dr. John Britton, who was entering the clinic along with his bodyguard, James Barrett. The shots killed both men and wounded Barrett's wife, Joan. Hill immediately put down his weapon and was arrested; presenting an image of someone who knew that he would be arrested, convicted, and executed by the State of Florida for his actions, which he was in 2003. This would make Hill something of a Christian suicide attacker.

What is interesting about Hill and his supporters is not just his political views, but also his religious ones. As I reported in my book, [Terror in the Mind of God](#), and in [an essay](#) for RD several months ago, Hill framed his actions as those of a Christian warrior engaged in sacred battle. "My eyes were opened to the enormous impact" such an event would have, he wrote, adding that "the effect would be incalculable." Hill said that he opened his Bible and found sustenance in Psalms 91: "You will not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day." Hill interpreted this as an affirmation that his act was biblically approved.

One of the supporters that Paul Hill had written these words to was Rev. Michael Bray, a Lutheran pastor in Bowie, Maryland, who had served prison time for his conviction of fire-bombing abortion-related clinics on the Eastern seaboard. Bray published a newsletter and then a Web site for his Christian anti-abortion movement, and published a book theologically justifying violence against abortion service providers, *A Time to Kill*. He is also alleged to be the author of the *Army of God* manual that provides details on how to conduct terrorist acts against abortion-related clinics.

Recently Bray has publicly defended Paul Roeder, the Wichita assassin, saying that he acted with “righteousness and mercy.” Several years earlier, another member of Bray’s network of associates, Rachelle (“Shelly”) Shannon, a housewife from rural Oregon, had also attacked Dr. George Tiller as he drove away from his clinic in Wichita. She was arrested for attempted murder.

When I interviewed Bray on several occasions in the 1990s, he provided a theological defense of this kind of violence from two different Christian perspectives. In the remainder of this essay, I’ll summarize from *Terror in the Mind of God* some of my observations about these theological strands behind their terrorism in the 1990s—and which, amazingly, are surfacing again today.

Theological Illogic

The more traditional Christian justification that Bray used for his violence was just-war theory. He was fond of quoting two of my own heroes, [Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#) and Reinhold Niebuhr, in what I regard as perverse ways. Bray thought that their justification of military action against the Nazis (and an attempted assassination plot on Hitler’s life Bonhoeffer was involved in) was an appropriate parallel to his terrorism against the US government’s sanctioning of legal abortions. It seemed highly unlikely to me that Bray’s positions would have been accepted by these or any other theologian within mainstream Protestant thought. Bonhoeffer and Niebuhr, like most modern theologians, supported the principle of the separation of church and state, and were wary of what Niebuhr called “moralism”—the intrusion of religious or other ideological values into the political calculations of statecraft. Moreover, Bray did not rely on mainstream theologians for his most earnest theological justification.

The more significant Christian position that Bray and Hill advanced is related to the End-Time theology of the Rapture as thought to be envisaged by the New Testament book of Revelation. These are ideas related, in turn, to Dominion Theology, the position that Christianity must reassert the dominion of God over all things, including secular politics and society. This point of view, articulated by such right-wing Protestant spokespersons as Rev. Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, have been part of the ideology of the Christian Right since at least the 1980s and 1990s.

At its hardest edge, the movement requires the creation of a kind of Christian politics to set the stage for America’s acceptance of the second coming of Christ. In this context, it is significant today that in some parts of the United States, over one-third of the opponents of the policies of President Barack Obama believe he is the Antichrist as characterized in the End-Times Rapture scenario.

The Christian anti-abortion movement is permeated with ideas from Dominion Theology. [Randall Terry](#) (founder of the militant anti-abortion organization Operation Rescue and a writer for the Dominion magazine *Crosswinds*) signed the magazine’s “Manifesto for the Christian Church,” which asserted that America should “function as a Christian nation.” The Manifesto said that America should therefore oppose “social moral evils” of secular society such as “abortion on demand, fornication, homosexuality, sexual entertainment, state usurpation of parental rights and God-given liberties, statist-collectivist theft from citizens through devaluation of their money and redistribution of their wealth, and evolutionism taught as a monopoly viewpoint in the public schools.”

At the extreme right wing of Dominion Theology is a relatively obscure theological movement that Mike Bray found particularly appealing: Reconstruction Theology, whose exponents long to create a Christian theocratic state. Bray had studied their writings extensively and possessed a shelf of books written by Reconstruction authors. The convicted anti-abortion killer Paul Hill cited Reconstruction theologians in his own writings and once studied with a founder of the movement, Greg Bahnsen, at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi.

Leaders of the Reconstruction movement trace their ideas, which they sometimes called “[theonomy](#),” to Cornelius Van Til, a twentieth-century Presbyterian professor of theology at Princeton Seminary who took seriously the sixteenth-century ideas of the Reformation theologian John Calvin regarding the necessity for presupposing the authority of God in all worldly matters. Followers of Van Til (including his former students Bahnsen and Rousas John Rushdoony, and Rushdoony’s son-in-law, Gary North) adopted this “presuppositionalism” as a doctrine, with all its implications for the role of religion in political life.

Recapturing Institutions for Jesus

Reconstruction writers regard the history of Protestant politics since the early years of the Reformation as having taken a bad turn, and they are especially unhappy with the Enlightenment formulation of church-state separation. They feel it necessary to “reconstruct” Christian society by turning to the Bible as the basis for a nation’s law and social order. To propagate these views, the Reconstructionists established the Institute for Christian Economics in Tyler, Texas, and the Chalcedon Foundation in Vallecito, California. They have published a journal and a steady stream of books and booklets on the theological justification for interjecting Christian ideas into economic, legal, and political life.

According to the most prolific Reconstruction writer, [Gary North](#), it is “the moral obligation of Christians to recapture every institution for Jesus Christ.” He feels this to be especially so in the United States, where secular law as construed by the Supreme Court and defended by liberal politicians is moving in what Rushdoony and others regard as a decidedly un-Christian direction; particularly in matters regarding abortion and homosexuality. What the Reconstructionists ultimately want, however, is more than the rejection of secularism. Like other theologians who utilize the biblical concept of “dominion,” they reason that Christians, as the new chosen people of God, are destined to dominate the world.

The Reconstructionists possess a “postmillennial” view of history. That is, they believe that Christ will return to earth only after the thousand years of religious rule that characterizes the Christian idea of the millennium, and therefore Christians have an obligation to provide the political and social conditions that will make Christ’s return possible. “Premillennialists,” on the other hand, hold the view that the thousand years of Christendom will come only after Christ returns, an event that will occur in a cataclysmic moment of world history. Therefore they tend to be much less active politically.

Rev. Paul Hill, Rev. Michael Bray, and other Reconstructionists—along with Dominion theologians such as the American politician and television host Pat Robertson and many other right-wing Christian activists today—are postmillennialists. Hence they believe that a Christian kingdom must be established on Earth before Christ’s return. They take seriously the idea of a Christian society and a form of religious politics that will make biblical code the law of the United States.

These activists are quite serious about bringing Christian politics into power. Bray said that it is possible, under the right conditions, for a Christian revolution to sweep across the United States and bring in its wake Constitutional changes that would allow for biblical law to be the basis of social legislation. Failing that, Bray envisaged a new federalism that would allow individual states to experiment with religious politics on their own. When I asked Bray what state might be ready for such an experiment, he hesitated and then suggested Louisiana and Mississippi, or, he added, “maybe one of the Dakotas.”

Not all Reconstruction thinkers have endorsed the use of violence, especially the kind that Bray and Hill have justified. As Reconstruction author Gary North admitted, “there is a division in the theonomic camp” over violence, especially with regard to anti-abortion activities. Some months before Paul Hill killed Dr. Britton and his escort, Hill (apparently hoping for Gary North’s approval in advance) sent a letter to North along with a draft of an essay he had written justifying the possibility of such killings in part on theonomic grounds. North ultimately responded, but only after the murders had been committed.

North regretted that he was too late to deter Hill from his “terrible direction” and chastised Hill in an open letter, published as a booklet, denouncing Hill’s views as “vigilante theology.” According to North, biblical law provides exceptions to the commandment “Thou shalt not kill” (Ex 20:13), but in terms similar to just-war doctrine: when one is authorized to do so by “a covenantal agent” in wartime, to defend one’s household, to execute a convicted criminal, to avenge the death of one’s kin, to save an entire nation, or to stop moral transgressors from bringing bloodguilt on an entire community.

Hill, joined by Bray, responded to North's letter. They argued that many of those conditions applied to the abortion situation in the United States. Writing from his prison cell in Starke, Florida, Paul Hill said that the biblical commandment against murder also "requires using the means necessary to defend against murder—including lethal force." He went on to say that he regarded "the cutting edge of Satan's current attack" to be "the abortionist's knife," and therefore his actions had ultimate theological significance.

Bray, in his book, *A Time to Kill*, spoke to North's concern about the authorization of violence by a legitimate authority or "a covenantal agent," as North put it. Bray raised the possibility of a "righteous rebellion." Just as liberation theologians justify the use of unauthorized force for the sake of their vision of a moral order, Bray saw the legitimacy of using violence not only to resist what he regarded as murder—abortion—but also to help bring about the Christian political order envisioned by the radical dominion theology thinkers. In Bray's mind, a little violence was a small price to pay for the possibility of fulfilling God's law and establishing His kingdom on earth.

For most of the rest of us, even a little violence is a price too high to pay for these fantastic visions of Christian politics and for America's recent return to Christian terrorism.

Mark Juergensmeyer is Professor of Sociology and Director of Global and International Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is the winner of the Grawemeyer Award for his book *Terror in the Mind of God* (UC Press). He is the editor of *Global Religions: An Introduction* and is also the author of *The New Cold War? Religious Nationalism Confronts the Secular State* and *Gandhi's Way: A Handbook of Conflict Resolution*, both from UC Press.

© 2010 Religion Dispatches All rights reserved.

AlterNet [home page](#)
ReligionDispatches [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:51 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Roni Krouzman: A New Way on Earth Day

A New Way on Earth Day: Creating a Movement with Soul

by Roni Krouzman [article link](#)

Published on Sunday, April 18, 2010 by CommonDreams.org
(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

On this 40th anniversary of Earth Day, I find myself filled with a renewed desire to see humanity make a monumental shift and learn to tend and protect our fragile planet once more. To see a vibrant movement emerge that harnesses the collective power of humanity to defend and restore the Earth.

I think we can get there. If we change how we do things. And first that means facing the truth of our current predicament.

The reality as I see it is that for all the hard work, passion, and innovation the environmental movement has fostered since the first Earth Day 40 years ago - and the victories it has won - in a fundamental way, it is failing. While we are winning battles here and there, overall, we are losing the war.

I am not the first to make this claim. In 2004, Sierra Club President Adam Werbach made major waves with his "**Death of Environmentalism**" critique, declaring he was "done pretending" that the environmental movement was succeeding. "The challenges we face are too serious," he said. "It is at moments like these that we need to take a hard look in the mirror," he argued.

Werbach wasn't bringing this up to depress anyone, and neither am I. As an environmental organizer and social activist, I always believed in the power of staying positive.

But false hope can be devastating. It keeps us engaged in activities and beliefs that make us feel as if we are getting somewhere, when really, we're not. **Keeping faith in efforts that aren't working will inevitably lead to despair.** "Look at all the good hard work we did. And even THAT didn't pay off. We're doomed!"

The best thing we might do now is pause, take stock and perhaps, shift direction. So that we can build a movement so powerful it will restore not only this glorious planet, but also our sense of purpose and connection as human beings.

A brief survey of a few key environmental indicators demonstrates the need to make this shift:

In 1970, global population - a major contributing factor to environmental destruction - was 3.7 billion. Despite efforts at population control, we are currently at 6.8 billion, nearing double that, and rising quickly.

Brazil's National Institute for Space Research, or INPE, reports we've lost 18% of that country's rainforest since the first Earth Day 40 years ago. Indonesia, which houses the most extensive rainforest in Asia, lost twice that percentage over the same period of time, and is losing what remains even faster than Brazil.

Despite passing the endangered Species Act here in the US three years after the first Earth Day - and conservation efforts worldwide - scientists estimate we are losing 30,000 species every year.

Despite higher fuel efficiency standards, a myriad of laws, global initiatives, and shifts in personal behaviors, atmospheric carbon - the main driver of global warming - increased from 325 parts per million in 1970 to 385 parts per million this year. And that trend shows no signs of abating.

For years, I'd hear activists focus on the problem and think, "This is not helping anything. This just makes people depressed. Everyone knows we're not in good shape. Let's focus on solutions."

On this 40th anniversary of Earth Day, part of me feels like I should be saying, "Look at all we've done! Look at how many more people are eating organic, conserving energy and carpooling to work."

These are important efforts. And they make a difference. When I hear that my sister in New York City is reusing plastic bags, shopping at farmer's markets and looking for alternatives to plastics to safeguard the health of her newborn child, I am deeply moved.

But these individual actions, while important, are not doing the trick. And neither are the collective actions of hundreds of thousands of organizations.

I am 32 years old, and I am deeply grateful for all the work that came before me. It all served a purpose and laid the groundwork for what is emerging now.

This is a new time. It's a time when I believe many of my generation have something new to contribute. **Many of us are as disillusioned with fist-in-the-air-activism as we are with an increasingly inept and corrupt political process.** While we recycle, we know deep inside that won't be enough. We feel torn between working on ourselves and working for the world.

And yet deep in our hearts we are filled with the desire to save this beautiful planet, for ourselves and for all beings, and for generations to come. But we don't want to come from anger, we don't want to compromise ourselves, and we don't want to sacrifice beauty for struggle.

And I don't think we need to. **For me, a new way of activism would promote unity over division. It would bring all parts of ourselves to our work. It would fulfill us. It would come from love rather than fear. It would involve almost every human being, and integrate thousands of years of human wisdom into a new way of activism and a movement that embodies it.**

I'm not the only one proposing a new way. Calls for new strategies are abounding. Werbach is now promoting what he calls Blue, "a lifestyle movement that asks people to create personal sustainability practices and translate them into the things they buy. BLUE encompasses green concerns and goes a step further by asking how ecological thinking can help people solve other problems in their lives, from quitting smoking to saving money to spending more time with their families."

These are noble goals. But they don't approach the scale of what is needed. **I believe we need new strategies. More importantly, however, I believe we need a whole new way of relating to ourselves, to one another, and to the Earth. We need to foster and tap into a new way of being that underlies what we do.**

I can see glimpses of this new way. I see a generation of people deeply in tune with their soul purpose, their reason for living on the planet. I see a generation that, regardless of its view of organized religion is deeply in tune with an underlying order and beauty to the Universe that we cannot see but that we know is there, and from which we gain profound strength.

I see a generation willing to take from the the best of humanity's wisdom. From conservationists and activists. From psychologists and political organizers. From artists, entrepreneurs and spiritual teacher. From native cultures and all cultures.

I see a generation communing deeply with nature, on forest walks or mountain climbs or ocean sits, understanding that our personal and collective salvation is fed by a deep connection to the Earth.

I see a generation honoring everything it does. Taking a moment to light a candle and reflect on the importance of our work before starting meetings. Singing songs. Dancing. Celebrating. Relying, deeply, on one another.

I imagine organizations where people feel vibrant and totally on purpose, knowing it matters deeply that they are there. Not stressed, not strapped to computers, not tied to a bottom-line of efficiency and productivity. Alive! Organizations that mirror the very values we are working for.

I see a generation that finds the sacred again in itself and all things. That transcends division and returns to a deep place of connection with ourselves, with each other, with the Earth, with all beings, with the Universe. That recovers and taps its deepest humanity to build a movement so powerful it fosters a leap in consciousness and relating that saves humanity and the planet.

Most of the pieces of this new movement are here. We need only bring them together. We might call this new way **The Great Integration**. Not a very sexy title, but it gets to the heart of it: **how can we bring together all parts of our humanity, and a broad range of human wisdom, and ecological wisdom and spiritual wisdom to transform consciousness and change the world?**

I don't know exactly what will happen if we act from this new place. I do know we will feel far more fulfilled in our work. And I have a hunch, somewhere deep inside, that it is shift is happening, and that we can and will change things in ways we only imagined.

So that 40 years from now, we won't say, "At least we tried." We will say, "At some point, we stopped, and made a big shift. We brought together all the parts of ourselves and our culture and 50,000 years of human wisdom, and we succeeded in saving and restoring one of the greatest miracles in this miracle of a universe. For ourselves and our children and every grove of trees that cannot act to save itself and for generations of species that will live and breathe 500 and 500,000 years from now."

Could we give ourselves to a greater cause or leave a greater legacy?

Roni Krouzman is a writer and non-profit consultant based in Fairfax, CA.

Mainstream Green Groups Cave In on Climate

Dangerously Allow Industry to Set Agenda

by Gary Houser and Cory Morningstar [article link](#)

Published on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 by CommonDreams.org

CommonDreams [home page](#)

The Atlantic, Mother Jones, Others Collaborate on Environmental Editorial Project

'Climate Desk' pools resources to cover climate change across platforms.

by Jason Fell [article link](#)

04/19/2010 FolioMag.com

A major partnership that has been in the works since last year has come to fruition. The Atlantic, Mother Jones and Wired, along with Slate, Grist, the Center for Investigative Reporting and PBS current-affairs program "Need to Know," have teamed up to launch Climate Desk, a project dedicated to exploring the impact of climate change.

Hoping to tap into a combined online audience of more than 25 million monthly unique visitors, 1.5 million print readers and an anticipated TV audience of 1.5 million, the group will begin by publishing a series of articles exploring how American businesses are adapting to the liabilities, risks and opportunities surrounding climate change. During the final two weeks of April, two dozen stories on the topic will be posted to partner Web sites as well as to theclimatedesk.org.

"Not only is this experiment intriguing to participate in, but we all benefit from the skepticism and rigor that comes from having to test your ideas against a whole new set of editors and readers," Slate editor David Plotz said in an announcement.

Back in December, The Atlantic editorial director Bob Cohn [told FOLIO](#): that collaboration between news organizations is one important way content creators to help resolve the difficulty in covering expansive, dynamic topics under dwindling resources.

"Pooling resources, whether it's money or reporters or technology, can make good sense for outfits that want to remain ambitious in lean times," he said. "We all still want to beat the other guy, but sometimes the best way to unpack a complex and multi-dimensional story may be to forge ties with like-minded colleagues."

Folio: [home page](#)

The Climate Desk [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:22 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monday, April 19, 2010

[Rick Wolff: Phony "Economic Recovery," Real Alternatives](#)

Phony "Economic Recovery," Real Alternatives

by Rick Wolff [article link](#)

18.04.10 MRZine

The crisis persists. Tens of millions remain unemployed or underemployed. Millions are losing their homes this year adding to millions last year. States and municipalities are cutting back on schools, hospitals, programs for disabled and the elderly, etc. Business and political leaders stretch to keep the public away from blaming the system, capitalism.

So we are told to celebrate a "jobless recovery" because banks, the stock market, and some corporations did better over the last year. A "jobless recovery" is like a "war-filled peace." Such phrases abuse language. Leaders use them to tell it like it isn't. The facts are these. Bush and Obama poured vast sums of public money into the banks, urging them to renew lending to individuals and businesses that would then buy and hire again. The banks used the government money to improve their own bankrupt balance sheets, but they never lent it out across our economy. That was far too risky, they said; bankers often miss irony. The broad economy kept sinking, but the stock market rose because speculators borrowed the cheap government-provided money from the banks to buy shares at crisis-depressed prices.

In simple English, the plan to overcome crisis by using public money to refinance failed banks did not work. Rather than admit failure and consider alternative plans, our leaders proclaim that government-refinanced banks and a partly restored stock market constitute "recovery."

Alternative strategies could yield a real recovery in jobs, production, and healthy budgets for states, cities, and towns. During the 1930s economic crisis, then president Roosevelt used one such alternative to treat high unemployment. His administration hired the unemployed directly because private capitalist enterprises had proven unable or unwilling to do so. Federal programs like the [Civilian Conservation Corps](#) and the [Works Progress Administration](#) provided over 11 million jobs between 1933 and 1943. Those unemployed re-hired by Washington built many of our nation's parks and highways, replanted forests, and delivered re-employed artists into every corner of the US, among other socially useful projects. Those programs ended only when another government activity provided even more jobs and finally ended unemployment: World War 2.

No direct government hiring program exists now or is being sought by Obama's administration. Business fears the consequences of production by and competition from the government. Millions of government employees would fight hard politically to protect their jobs. So business uses its revenues to block such government actions by contributing to candidates, lobbying elected officials, and bribing bureaucrats. Business also spends billions on think tanks, foundations, publications, and academics to criticize the government in principle as the people's enemy, the cause of its miseries. And we are surprised by teabaggers?

Another alternative to today's failed government bailout of banks would extend what FDR did in the 1930s. The federal government would finance local, state, and national rehiring of the unemployed but with two new special qualifications. First, at least half of goods and services they produce would have to be green: reduce pollution, restore the natural environment, reduce depletion of energy and materials resources, and so on. Second, the enterprises created to re-employ people would differ from traditional capitalist corporations by establishing genuine economic democracy at the workplace.

Others have proposed green government employment programs such as building mass transit systems, so I need not discuss them again here. However, few have so far proposed new organizations of work. For example, one such proposal would assign the newly re-employed a new kind of job description. Each of their jobs would include (1) a specific production task and also (2) full and equal participation in running the enterprise. These workers would democratically make the decisions that, in traditional capitalist enterprises, are reserved for boards of directors (12-20 individuals selected by and responsible to the major shareholders who are usually a tiny minority of all shareholders). In such new enterprises, then, there would be no shareholders controlling boards of directors exploiting workers. The workers collectively would instead be their own

board of directors. They would be accountable to the state that established them, to the communities immediately affected by and dependent upon them, to their consumers, and to other enterprises with whom they exchange goods and services.

This alternative plan offers many benefits. It employs millions, pays them, and thereby allows them to pay their mortgages (thereby keeping their homes), to pay taxes (thereby adding revenues to states and localities), and to buy commodities (thereby creating jobs). It restores self-esteem, vitality, and thus productivity to depressed workers, their families, and their communities. It tackles long-neglected environmental needs.

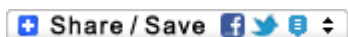
This alternative plan also represents a commitment to achieving economic democracy. All US workers could see for themselves how such differently organized enterprises function, whether their employees are more productive and happier than them. Those enterprises' activities and results would be made public and transparent. Over time, people would acquire two new freedoms of choice between democratic and undemocratic enterprises: (1) which they prefer to work in, and (2) whose products they prefer to purchase. Imagine each commodity labeled to identify the work organization of its production.

This alternative plan could transform a bad thing -- today's crisis and failure of our traditional capitalist economy -- into an historic good thing. It would inaugurate a national effort to diversify our economic system. This is a win-win plan. We gain in our relations with the natural environment and we gain in bringing democracy into our production system.

The losers would be those who prefer traditional capitalist organizations of work. For them, the social costs of environmental and ecological deterioration, of non-democratic work organization, and of the repeated recessions and depressions capitalism imposes on societies don't seem so bad. We should not be surprised. After all, businesses and shareholders are the ones who got government help first as their system broke down over the last 3 years, and they are the ones who made the most before the breakdown. Will those potential losers be strong enough again to block such a win-win plan? Or might an alliance of environmentalists and anti-capitalist democrats carry some version of it to victory?

Rick Wolff is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and also a Visiting Professor at the Graduate Program in International Affairs of the New School University in New York. He is the author of [New Departures in Marxian Theory](#) (Routledge, 2006) among many other publications. Check out Rick Wolff's documentary film on the current economic crisis, [Capitalism Hits the Fan](#), at www.capitalismhitsthefan.com. Visit Wolff's Web site at www.rdwolff.com, and order a copy of his new book [Capitalism Hits the Fan: The Global Economic Meltdown and What to Do about It](#).

MRZine [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:13 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Chris Hedges: Noam Chomsky Has 'Never Seen Anything Like This'](#)

Noam Chomsky Has 'Never Seen Anything Like This'

By Chris Hedges [article link](#)

Posted on Apr 19, 2010 truthdig

Noam Chomsky is America's greatest intellectual. His massive body of work, which includes nearly 100 books, has for decades deflated and exposed the lies of the power elite and the myths they perpetrate. Chomsky has done this despite being blacklisted by the commercial media, turned into a pariah by the academy and, by his own admission, being a pedantic and at times slightly boring speaker. He combines moral autonomy with rigorous scholarship, a remarkable grasp of detail and a searing intellect. He curtly dismisses our two-party system as a mirage orchestrated by the corporate state, excoriates the liberal intelligentsia for being fops and courtiers and describes the drivel of the commercial media as a form of "brainwashing." And as our nation's most prescient critic of unregulated capitalism, globalization and the poison of empire, he enters his 81st year warning us that we have little time left to save our anemic democracy.

“It is very similar to late Weimar Germany,” Chomsky told me when I called him at his office in Cambridge, Mass. “The parallels are striking. There was also tremendous disillusionment with the parliamentary system. The most striking fact about Weimar was not that the Nazis managed to destroy the Social Democrats and the Communists but that the traditional parties, the Conservative and Liberal parties, were hated and disappeared. It left a vacuum which the Nazis very cleverly and intelligently managed to take over.”

“The United States is extremely lucky that no honest, charismatic figure has arisen,” Chomsky went on. “Every charismatic figure is such an obvious crook that he destroys himself, like McCarthy or Nixon or the evangelist preachers. If somebody comes along who is charismatic and honest this country is in real trouble because of the frustration, disillusionment, the justified anger and the absence of any coherent response. What are people supposed to think if someone says ‘I have got an answer, we have an enemy’? There it was the Jews. Here it will be the illegal immigrants and the blacks. We will be told that white males are a persecuted minority. We will be told we have to defend ourselves and the honor of the nation. Military force will be exalted. People will be beaten up. This could become an overwhelming force. And if it happens it will be more dangerous than Germany. The United States is the world power. Germany was powerful but had more powerful antagonists. I don’t think all this is very far away. If the polls are accurate it is not the Republicans but the right-wing Republicans, the crazed Republicans, who will sweep the next election.”

“I have never seen anything like this in my lifetime,” Chomsky added. “I am old enough to remember the 1930s. My whole family was unemployed. There were far more desperate conditions than today. But it was hopeful. People had hope. The CIO was organizing. No one wants to say it anymore but the Communist Party was the spearhead for labor and civil rights organizing. Even things like giving my unemployed seamstress aunt a week in the country. It was a life. There is nothing like that now. The mood of the country is frightening. The level of anger, frustration and hatred of institutions is not organized in a constructive way. It is going off into self-destructive fantasies.”

“I listen to talk radio,” Chomsky said. “I don’t want to hear Rush Limbaugh. I want to hear the people calling in. They are like [suicide pilot] [Joe Stack](#). What is happening to me? I have done all the right things. I am a God-fearing Christian. I work hard for my family. I have a gun. I believe in the values of the country and my life is collapsing.”

Chomsky has, more than any other American intellectual, charted the downward spiral of the American political and economic system, in works such as “On Power and Ideology: The Managua Lectures,” “Rethinking Camelot: JFK, the Vietnam War, and US Political Culture,” “A New Generation Draws the Line: Kosovo, East Timor and the Standards of the West,” “Understanding Power: The Indispensable Chomsky,” “Manufacturing Consent” and “Letters From Lexington: Reflections on Propaganda.” He reminds us that genuine intellectual inquiry is always subversive. It challenges cultural and political assumptions. It critiques structures. It is relentlessly self-critical. It implodes the self-indulgent myths and stereotypes we use to elevate ourselves and ignore our complicity in acts of violence and oppression. And it makes the powerful, as well as their liberal apologists, deeply uncomfortable.

Chomsky reserves his fiercest venom for the liberal elite in the press, the universities and the political system who serve as a smoke screen for the cruelty of unchecked capitalism and imperial war. He exposes their moral and intellectual posturing as a fraud. And this is why Chomsky is hated, and perhaps feared, more among liberal elites than among the right wing he also excoriates. When Christopher Hitchens decided to become a windup doll for the Bush administration after the attacks of 9/11, one of the first things he did was write a vicious article attacking Chomsky. Hitchens, unlike most of those he served, knew which intellectual in America mattered. [Editor’s note: To see some of the articles in the 2001 exchanges between Hitchens and Chomsky, click [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).]

“I don’t bother writing about Fox News,” Chomsky said. “It is too easy. What I talk about are the liberal intellectuals, the ones who portray themselves and perceive themselves as challenging power, as courageous, as standing up for truth and justice. They are basically the guardians of the faith. They set the limits. They tell us how far we can go. They say, ‘Look how courageous I am.’ But do not go one millimeter beyond that. At least for the educated sectors, they are the most dangerous in supporting power.”

Chomsky, because he steps outside of every group and eschews all ideologies, has been crucial to American discourse for decades, from his work on the Vietnam War to his criticisms of the Obama administration. He stubbornly maintains his position as an iconoclast, one who distrusts power in any form.

“Most intellectuals have a self-understanding of themselves as the conscience of humanity,” said the Middle East scholar [Norman Finkelstein](#). “They revel in and admire someone like Vaclav Havel. Chomsky is contemptuous of Havel. Chomsky embraces the [Julien Benda](#) view of the world. There are two sets of principles. They are the principles of power and privilege and the principles of truth and justice. If you pursue truth and justice it will always mean a diminution of power and privilege. If you pursue power and privilege it will always be at the expense of truth and justice. Benda says that the credo of any true intellectual has to be, as Christ said, ‘my kingdom is not of this world.’ Chomsky exposes the pretenses of those who claim to be the bearers of truth and justice. He shows that in fact these intellectuals are the bearers of power and privilege and all the evil that attends it.”

“Some of Chomsky’s books will consist of things like analyzing the misrepresentations of the Arias plan in Central America, and he will devote 200 pages to it,” Finkelstein said. “And two years later, who will have heard of Oscar Arias? It causes you to wonder would Chomsky have been wiser to write things on a grander scale, things with a more enduring quality so that you read them forty or sixty years later. This is what Russell did in books like ‘Marriage and Morals.’ Can you even read any longer what Chomsky wrote on Vietnam and Central America? The answer has to often be no. This tells you something about him. He is not writing for ego. If he were writing for ego he would have written in a grand style that would have buttressed his legacy. He is writing because he wants to effect political change. He cares about the lives of people and there the details count. He is trying to refute the daily lies spewed out by the establishment media. He could have devoted his time to writing philosophical treatises that would have endured like Kant or Russell. But he invested in the tiny details which make a difference to win a political battle.”

“I try to encourage people to think for themselves, to question standard assumptions,” Chomsky said when asked about his goals. “Don’t take assumptions for granted. Begin by taking a skeptical attitude toward anything that is conventional wisdom. Make it justify itself. It usually can’t. Be willing to ask questions about what is taken for granted. Try to think things through for yourself. There is plenty of information. You have got to learn how to judge, evaluate and compare it with other things. You have to take some things on trust or you can’t survive. But if there is something significant and important don’t take it on trust. As soon as you read anything that is anonymous you should immediately distrust it. If you read in the newspapers that Iran is defying the international community, ask who is the international community? India is opposed to sanctions. China is opposed to sanctions. Brazil is opposed to sanctions. The Non-Aligned Movement is vigorously opposed to sanctions and has been for years. Who is the international community? It is Washington and anyone who happens to agree with it. You can figure that out, but you have to do work. It is the same on issue after issue.”

Chomsky’s courage to speak on behalf of those, such as the Palestinians, whose suffering is often minimized or ignored in mass culture, holds up the possibility of the moral life. And, perhaps even more than his scholarship, his example of intellectual and moral independence sustains all who defy the cant of the crowd to speak the truth.

“I cannot tell you how many people, myself included, and this is not hyperbole, whose lives were changed by him,” said Finkelstein, who has been driven out of several university posts for his intellectual courage and independence. “Were it not for Chomsky I would have long ago succumbed. I was beaten and battered in my professional life. It was only the knowledge that one of the greatest minds in human history has faith in me that compensates for this constant, relentless and vicious battering. There are many people who are considered nonentities, the so-called little people of this world, who suddenly get an e-mail from Noam Chomsky. It breathes new life into you. Chomsky has stirred many, many people to realize a level of their potential that would forever been lost.”

truthdig [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:01 PM](#) [1 comments](#)

Giordano Bruno: One Day Soon

One Day Soon, We'll All Be "Homegrown Terrorists"

By Giordano Bruno [article link](#)

Neithercorp Press - 04/07/2010

The word "terrorist" has assumed numerous presumptive connotations over the decades, and this trend of "redefining" the vicious label to suit certain governmental needs has only intensified in recent years, especially since 9/11. Its graduation as widely used political terminology gives it an almost archetypal quality, because it has the ability to trigger abundant and subconscious emotional reactions in the populace. However, these reactions are usually based on mass delusions: false ideas of what terrorism is, what it is not, and who is actually guilty of these loosely classified crimes. It is a weighted word, filled with projections, biases, and faulty perceptions.

Governments across the world, and organizations such as the UN, have considered "officially" categorizing what a terrorist actually is, but claim that they have been unable to reach an accord that satisfies everyone. I feel it is much more likely that ruling bodies, most especially the UN, would like nothing better than to keep the specifics of the term as hazy as possible for as long as possible. The more elusive it is, the more powerful it becomes to those elite minorities who wish to retain and centralize political control. While we tend to associate terrorism with Muslim extremism, because this is the image we have been force-fed for the past ten years, that association can just as easily be swayed or redirected to someone else depending on which person or people become most obstructive to the government's immediate desires. At bottom, under the current cultural climate, anyone can be labeled a terrorist for any reason, even American Citizens liable for nothing more than exercising their Constitutional rights.

As our country spirals towards certain monetary derailment, scathing discontentment with the establishment is sure to arise. When trusted leadership betrays, when criminality becomes a political guideline, when the corrupt loot the world, burning the people alive in their ever expanding grip, invariably, defiance is born. The Globalists know this well. They have seen it time and again, and have learned from past mistakes. Instead of immediately attempting to crush this opposition of individualists, the Elites now preempt violence with "false cultural identification"; the public demonization of those who would inevitably rebel BEFORE they even do so, much like a murderer who admonishes his future victims for wanting to defend themselves. The wise man would find this tactic absurd, or insane, but wisdom is in short supply these days.

In this article, we will explore the steps that the Elites are taking to prime the masses for the label we will soon be hearing daily; "Homegrown Terrorist". We will also take a look at the organizations and think tanks that manufacture this propaganda and mold it for public consumption...

Hutaree, And Pavlov's Dog

Though the "Hutaree Militia" and their arrest have been widely publicized in the media, and the MSM has all but sentenced them as guilty in the eyes of the nation before a trial has even begun, I will retain judgment until all the facts are in. The incident has all the characteristics of a "Trojan Horse" disinformation maneuver, in which groups who oppose the government are infiltrated by men posing as members. A common occurrence in the 60's and 70's during the anti-Vietnam War movement, these federal moles would then purposely lure groups into illegal acts, or frame them outright. The main goal of this tactic is to topple the moral high ground that the challenging movement stands on, making them appear as corrupt as the governments they defend against. However, the manipulation goes much further.

Whether or not the Hutaree are actually guilty of the crimes they have been accused is really not the most relevant issue. What is relevant, are the false associations and connections made by the MSM in an attempt to not only demonize the Hutaree, but the entire Liberty Movement along with them.

While it is not uncommon for the globalist-controlled media to attack the Liberty Movement, the widespread anger over the recent passing of Obama's unconstitutional health care bill and the Hutaree incident have opened certain doors for exploitation. The news is now awash in anti-patriot misinformation. Here are a few of the most prominent falsehoods being presented:

1) The Liberty Movement Is An Extremist Right Wing Element?: It may be a bit cliché to say, but people really do fear what they don't understand. Half of the American populace have absolutely no clue what the "Right Wing" is, let alone what a "Right Wing Extremist" is. During the presidency of George W. Bush, the Liberty Movement railed against the Republican Party for tripling the size of federal government, for going to war in Iraq on false pretenses, for refusing to allow a truly independent investigation of 9/11 despite numerous inconsistencies and scientifically erroneous evidence in the official reports, and for illegal expansion of domestic wire tapping and spy programs against American citizens, including FISA, not to mention the Patriot Act and PDD 51, which give the executive branch legal authority to assume full control over the functions of government without checks and balances under any circumstance they see fit. In response, the MSM and others called us "liberal fanatics" and "communists". Only a few years later, they now have the audacity to label us "right wing extremists", as we call out the Obama Administration for supporting the exact same policies as Bush. The Time Magazine article below illustrates this well:

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1976308,00.html?xid=rss-fullnation-yahoo>

Many Americans do not comprehend the position of the Liberty Movement because they are still trapped in the fabricated world of the false "left / right" paradigm. The leadership of both parties, Democrat and Republican, are under the influence of the same corporate globalist interests, and this is evident in the fact they support nearly identical executive legislative actions that erode civil liberties and U.S. sovereignty. The illusion of the Left and Right is not substantiated by fact, but by the theater of media. Barack Obama's rhetoric, for instance, has never matched his actions, and few if any of his campaign promises to end Bush-era injustices have been fulfilled.

As a country, we must stop living in the fantasy world of celebrity politics, a world in which what people say is more important than what they really do. This is where the Liberty Movement exists; in the plane between the phony realities of Left and Right, where "taking sides" is meaningless, where the only thing that is important is what is TRUE, and what is dishonest.

The attempt by the media today to brand us as "Right Wing" is merely a ruse to associate us with the much hated Neo-Con ideology (which is really socialist), and to continue perpetuating the lie of the current two party apparatus. In this way, they can marginalize us as a fringe element of a fake party, an element that people can be made to dread, instead of the birth of a new third party, which is what we really are.

2) The Liberty Movement's Anger Over The Health Care Debate Makes Us "Dangerous"? Last year, Neithercorp reported on the developments surrounding Obamacare and our personal belief that not only was the bill not practical, but that it was not meant to work at all:

<http://neithercorp.us/npress/?p=92>

'ObamaCare' will not come to fruition, for many reasons, but most of all because the U.S. is beyond indebted. The costs involved in nationalizing health care are enormous. The sales of U.S. treasury debt to foreign banks have plummeted over the past year, and they will continue to do so. Like Greece to the tenth power, America is on the verge of sovereign debt default. The government and the private Federal Reserve's only recourse has been to create massive amounts of currency out of thin air to cover the mushrooming expense of keeping the economy afloat. Without the constant injections of liquidity into treasuries, our government would no longer be able to operate. Very soon, these injections will inflate the money supply to levels which will destroy our currency, throwing the financial system into chaos. And, in the midst of all this, the Obama administration decides to increase our budget deficit to record levels and introduce socialized health care? Of course people are angry! It is my suspicion, however, that this was the goal all along.

ObamaCare can be used to create intense divisions in the citizenry, as well as distract us from the economy. It can also be used to redirect the debate over expansion of government power. By introducing ObamaCare, the elites change the dynamic of the argument. Before, the contention was that the government's size was unsustainable and would bankrupt the nation. Now, the argument is over the ethics of leaving people without healthcare, and the "necessity" of large government in supplying that care. The debate morphed from a clean cut examination of what we could afford, into a foggy morality play

in which those who oppose government expansion are “uncaring”, “greedy”, or perhaps “evil”. The article below alludes to such accusations:

<http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2010/04/01/americas-season-of-rage-and-fear/>

The message here is that proponents of private healthcare are “overreacting” to the legislation. Arguments that Obamacare is no more insidious than Medicare are highly disingenuous. Medicare is government ASSISTED health care, not government CONTROLLED health care. There is a very big difference, one which we refuse to ignore.

The Liberty Movement’s position on any issue has always been; do we have the money, and does the Constitution allow it? While it is unfortunate that the poor (I have been one of them) cannot afford health insurance, the cold hard reality is that we do not have the savings to fund collectivist healthcare, nor does the Constitution allow for government to dominate the healthcare industry, or force people to buy insurance they don’t want. This is not about little orphan Annie who needs a kidney transplant. Obama couldn’t care less. This is about putting those who call for smaller government in the position of being the “bad guy”, as well as making Federal influence over our private lives that much easier. The goal is to paint the movement as unfeeling, and without compassion, thus making it easier for the average American to see us as “terrorists” in the near future.

3) The Liberty Movement Is Driven By Racism?: This has to be my favorite disinfo talking point, mainly because of its blatancy. There was a time when all propaganda was so straight forward, simple, and shameless. Below is a Time Magazine article which is obviously trying to connect Constitutionalists and militias with racism and white power organizations:

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1198895,00.html?iid=sphere-inline-sidebar>

This tactic does not need much explaining. First, I’ve been going to the Tea Parties for years, long before they were co-opted by Fox News, and I can say from firsthand experience that the Liberty Movement is composed of people from all racial, religious and political backgrounds. Many militias are also organized the same way.

The fact that the movement is fully opposed to illegal immigration is often used by the establishment to draw more false associations. The connection to which they allude is that since we are against illegal immigration, we are against all immigrants, especially Hispanic immigrants. This is nonsensical. We are against illegal immigration, for one, because it is ILLEGAL. I am not sure what is so complicated about this concept, but for some people, especially those who place themselves on the left end of our fake political spectrum, it is difficult to comprehend.

There are in fact legal channels one can take to immigrate to the U.S., as there are for any other country. If an American wishes to immigrate to Canada, he does not simply skip across the border and declare it so. He must follow legal guidelines, or be deported. This does not make Canadians biased against Americans, it makes them rational. If millions of us decided to lumber into Quebec and begin collecting on government programs that we never paid into, it would throw their entire economy into disarray. If we all offered our services to employers there at discount prices under the table, it would destroy their jobs market. It has nothing to do with race and everything to do with what makes sense.

This is why polls show that a large percentage of minorities in the U.S. are also against illegal immigration, not just whites:

<http://www.examiner.com/x-35821-Immigration-Reform-Examiner~y2010m3d2-New-poll-shows-that-minorities-want-tougher-enforcement-against-illegal-aliens>

The purpose behind the racist label is evident. No one likes a racist, especially not a militant racist. The tactic is designed to plant assumptions in the minds of those unaware of the facts, especially Democrats, so that when a Liberty Movement representative engages them in discussion, they will automatically refuse to listen, regardless of how reasonable that representative may be. The blunt nature of the method reveals how desperate globalists are to keep as many Democrats as possible from joining the movement.

4) People Who Spread Liberty Movement Information Are As Threatening As Those In Militias?: The sudden push on the part of the current administration for the institution of the Fairness Doctrine is no fluke. It is also even less of a fluke that they are attempting to apply the Fairness Doctrine to the internet.

The Fairness Doctrine accomplishes two things for the establishment: First, it forces all media to define themselves as either Left, or Right, and then balances them accordingly, meaning all media would be strong armed into playing out the false paradigm forever, neither side ever changing or gaining an advantage. Second, it allows government to dictate what acceptable political discussion is and shut down those that stray from their guidelines. If the Fairness Doctrine were to be applied, it would not affect those gatekeeper news outlets that play the paradigm game; Fox, MSNBC, CNN, etc. In reality, the only news sources that would be dealt a drastic blow would be those that straddle the line between left and right, or that deny the paradigm altogether; Liberty Movement sources.

I have noticed that this development has occurred in tandem with another more subtle strategy. While government moves to gain more influence over what news providers are allowed to operate, the MSM has moved to infer that Liberty Movement news sources are “instigating” violence, simply because they exist. While most of us are aware of the attempts to connect Alex Jones and his Infowars radio show with any violent gunman that happens to stumble out of the woodwork, there has also been an endeavor to link all Constitutionally based websites and radio with “extremist behavior”, as the below article shows:

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,982895,00.html>

All societies that are advancing towards fascism begin by singling out certain ideas as “dangerous” to the greater good. The very fabric of American life is centered on the protection of ideas, regardless of their origin. We do not prosecute people for their beliefs, no matter how much we might disagree. This is beginning to change though, and one can feel it in the air. The MSM is now producing a low droning hum of propaganda aimed at accusing liberty based news as accomplices in “extremist crime”. As if the general disenchantment and opposition to collectivist government would somehow disappear if we were not here to write our views and report on the facts.

The above list of establishment talking points demonstrates a discernable pattern. This pattern is engineered around the concept of “conditioning”. Like Pavlov’s dog, Americans are being prepared mentally to react to certain bells and whistles in a way that serves Elitist interests. In this case, instead of salivating every time they hear the words “militia”, “truth movement”, “patriot”, “Liberty Movement”, “Constitutionalism”, etc, they are meant to think “Hutaree”, they are meant to think “homegrown terrorist”. Of course, unlike Pavlov’s dog, human beings cannot be conditioned if they are aware, and they can even break their own conditioning if given the opportunity. This is why we are pummeled daily with a constant barrage of misinformation, so that we never get a chance to open our eyes and see who is hitting us. So, who is hitting us...?

The ADL And SPLC: Propaganda Machines Extraordinaire

Whenever you see a news story on almost any mainstream news channel, or read one in almost any newspaper dealing with the Liberty Movement and parallel movements, the chances are very high that the ADL (Anti Defamation League) or the SPLC (Southern Poverty Law Center) had a hand in it.

The ADL was founded in 1913 (coincidentally, the same year as the private Federal Reserve), and poses as a sort of civil rights group and non-profit corporation. In truth, it is a multifaceted propaganda arm for globalists, much like the Council on Foreign Relations, which has been involved in, and implicated in, domestic spying as well as other illegal activities.

In 1993, the ADL was caught red handed employing spies like Roy Bullock, who infiltrated organizations ranging from the White Aryan Resistance, to the NAACP and Greenpeace. Interestingly, they were also caught spying on other anti-discrimination groups, such as the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee:

http://articles.baltimoresun.com/1993-04-09/news/1993099283_1_anti-defamation-league-adl-san-francisco

These spies compiled dossiers on thousands of American citizens and hundreds of non-violent groups. In the mid-80's, they also terrorized certain peaceful assemblies for nothing more than free-speech. A method they are now applying to us.

Because the ADL is organized around the Jewish fraternal order of B'nai B'rith, some people make the mistake of assuming that they are a purely Israeli construct, however, they are actually a tool for Elitist activities, not just Israeli, and alphabet agencies such as the FBI and the CIA collude with them constantly. In fact, the government has only supported the ADL more since they were exposed in 1993, and the MSM reports their skewed statistics and baseless opinions as undeniable fact.

http://www.adl.org/learn/adl_law_enforcement/default.htm

When interviewed by the MSM, ADL and SPLC representatives are rarely challenged by their interviewers on any issue, and an interviewee with an opposing viewpoint is almost never present. When they are present, the "journalist" and the SPLC/ADL representative attack them maliciously, using dishonest Alinsky Tactics, such as attempting to keep the person from speaking, or attacking the person's character instead of addressing the information he presents. A good example is this interview on MSNBC with Chris Mathews and director of the SPLC, Mark Potok against Stewart Rhodes of Oath Keepers:

Oath Keepers is an organization of military and police members who are openly re-stating their support for the Constitution, over the shifting of government mandates, as all people in the armed forces are supposed to do. Yes, they must truly be a menace...

Notice that Potok and Matthews immediately generalize and dismiss every one of the Oath Keeper concerns on government as "dark conspiracy theory" without actually providing any tangible reasoning to support their claims, nor providing Rhodes any real opportunity to counter their accusations. The "conspiracy theory" redirection relies on an ignorant public, unaware of the numerous facts and evidence that support the Liberty Movement view. The ADL and SPLC hope that you and your family will take them at their word, instead of investigating the truth for yourself. That the term "conspiracy theory" will trigger a Pavlov's dog reaction, a knee-jerk response that causes your mind to immediately close. They also commonly use terms like "white supremacist", "Oklahoma City", or names like "Timothy McVeigh" in the same breath as "Oath Keepers" and "Patriot Movement". This is done deliberately, and if you watch a number of interviews involving the ADL/SPLC, you will notice that they do it as a rule. Again, the attempt is to link the unseemly actions of one man, or one small group, to the whole of the movement, and to the ideology of liberty.

When reason is applied, and research is undertaken, Mark Potok's arguments appear juvenile and lazy. The government's own legislation is what created the Liberty Movement's concern over martial law and loss of Constitutional freedoms. This legislation includes those mentioned above, like the Patriot Act and PDD 51, along with the Civilian Inmate Labor Program, and new legislation drafted by Republican, John McCain, and Democrat, Joe Lieberman (another example of the fake left/right working together), called the "Enemy Belligerents Act":

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=s111-3081>

This new act allows, among other things, for the treatment of U.S. citizens who dissent as enemy combatants, for the indefinite detention of these citizens without trial, and to be held under military jurisdiction. It also allows for "enhanced interrogation techniques", i.e. torture.

Bills like this are introduced to Congress yearly, and yet I have to watch Mark Potok on MSNBC call my concerns and the Liberty Movement's concerns "conspiracy theory"?

When We Are All Homegrown Terrorists...

Anyone who can't see where all this is leading would have to be cognitively impaired. I, for example, am just a writer, but under the broad definitions laid out in government legislation, I could easily be considered a threat to national security. Could my articles not inspire resentment in someone? Could the facts I present not instill a need for "dissent", or even self defense in the event that the establishment does institute martial law? What about people who aren't writers, but regular

Americans who happen to speak openly about their suspicions of where the country is heading? Are they “enemy belligerents” and combatants?

If the ADL and the SPLC had existed in the early days of the American Independence Movement, before a shot was ever fired, they would have called men like John Adams and Thomas Jefferson “terrorists”, good men, who only wanted to be free. There is little difference between our situation then, and our situation now, except that the terminology has changed, and indeed, we know even more about who we are fighting.

While being categorized as a homegrown terrorist may be a frightening prospect, what other people are led to believe about us is not so important. What is important is that we do not start to believe it ourselves. That we are not made to feel guilty for wanting to determine our own destinies, for wanting to keep government out of our lives and our children’s lives. We are not the instigators of this conflict, we are not the antagonists of this story. In the end, we are the deciders of this conflict. We are the authors of this story.

It is possible we will soon see an acceleration of our own malignment over the coming year. We will be ridiculed, condemned, and perhaps some of us even incarcerated. Violent attacks against innocent Americans will likely be carried out, some by real and misguided people, some engineered by government. We cannot allow these acts to be forced upon us as implied persona. We cannot allow others to speak for us, because others are unlikely to speak the truth. And most crucial of all, we cannot ever be afraid to speak for ourselves. The ultimate triumph for the Elites would be our silence.

Affirm your freedoms as an unbound man, cut the air, forceful and clear, let the world listen, and never stop.

Giordano Bruno
Neithercorp Press [home page](#)

Gun March Warm-Up: Oath Keepers Founder Goes Off on Maddow, Mother Jones - And AlterNet

By Adele M. Stan [article link](#)

Posted on April 18, 2010, Printed on April 19, 2010 AlterNet

AlterNet [home page](#)

Oath Keepers [home page](#)

Militia movement will be packing heat at gun rally on the Potomac

By Ann Gerhart [article link](#)

Washington Post Staff Writer

Monday, April 19, 2010

The Washington Post [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:49 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Sunday, April 18, 2010

Stewart Rhodes: Oath Keepers Update

Update on Withdrawing From April 19, 2010 Restore the Constitution Rally

by Stewart Rhodes [article link](#)

April 18th, 2010

1. We have no “secret intel” about the Restore the Constitution rally.

There have been accusations by some that Oath Keepers has “secret intel” about potential problems at the open carry Restore the Constitution rally scheduled for tomorrow, April 19, 2010, and that we are somehow withholding that info. So,

I want to put that rumor to rest by making it absolutely clear that we DO NOT have any such “secret intel” about that event, and Daniel Almond, the event organizer, knows all we know about any info regarding his event (which should be no surprise, since it is his event). I was merely a scheduled speaker, until I withdrew. Thus, anyone who has questions about the Restore the Constitution rally should contact Daniel Almond directly. You can reach him at restoretheconstitution@alarmandmuster.com He also posts updates and press releases at the official site for his rally at www.restoretheconstitution.wordpress.com

If we here at Oath Keepers did have any intel come in, we would of course pass it on to Daniel immediately. But no new info, that Daniel is not already aware of, has come in.

Further, we are not discouraging people from going – they are welcome to attend as individuals. And I should reiterate that the reasons we decided to not attend as an organization had nothing to do with any possible problems at the event, but rather with some of the rhetoric being used by some of the speakers who will be there. Nor are we condemning that event or even condemning the points of view expressed by those speakers – it’s just not consistent with our mission of outreach to current serving, that’s all.

Then what intel did we get that contributed to our decision to withdraw from the rally? The reliable information that Oath keepers received revealed that:

2. Oath Keepers is now being targeted for a COINTELPRO style smear campaign by elements within the government to “make Oath Keepers look like a militia - like the Hutaree.”

We received very reliable info from a federal law enforcement officer that the political powers that be in Washington DC are not at all happy with our mission of outreaching to the current serving military and police about their oath (wow, what a surprise), so the marching orders have come down for at least one federal agency to “make Oath Keepers look like a militia – like the Hutaree.” Of course Oath Keepers is not a militia – we are not organizing an armed body of men “to take on the government” as has been alleged by corporate media talking heads. Instead, we are an association of police, military, firefighters, and first responders who are using our First Amendment protected right to free speech to reach out to other active duty police, military and first responders, reminding them of their oath and teaching them more about the Constitution they swore to defend. We encourage them to consider the constitutionality of any orders they receive while serving here on American soil, and we encourage them to refuse to follow orders that would violate the Constitution and especially the Bill of Rights. And that’s all we do. Pretty simple, really, and pretty hard to attack since it is well established in military law that military personnel have a duty to disobey unlawful orders and that any law (and thus any order) contrary to the Constitution is null and void from inception. Who could, in good faith, argue with that? In fact, the scuttlebutt is that most of the rank and file federal law enforcement field agents are on our side – no surprise considering they all swore the same oath we did.

And that is exactly what has the powers that be so upset. They prefer blind obedience and don’t want the police and military to think for themselves and they certainly don’t want them thinking about their oath, studying the Constitution, and weighing the constitutionality of orders. Fact is, they fear and hate Oath Keepers precisely because they don’t think individuals should ever refuse orders. Such elites are not comfortable with the long established Nuremberg principle that just following orders is no excuse (reiterated after the My Lai Massacre) , and they would prefer that police and military forget that history, forget that principle, and simply follow all orders. Thus, they fear the oath itself.

However, since they cannot successfully attack Oath Keepers directly for simply advocating that we all keep our oaths by following well established precedent (the Nuremberg Principle) and by following the supreme law of the land, they must twist and distort what we are about and even use agent provocateurs to make us “look like a militia.” The political elites and their Non Government Organization and Media fellow travelers know how to smear and attack militias. But they have no experience countering a group like ours. We present a particularly sticky problem for them. How can they directly attack what we are doing? They can’t. So that is why they are trying to make us out to be something we are not – a militia – so they can more easily deal with us.

We have already seen a full court press (pun intended) attack against us in the mainstream media, complete with Newsweek focusing on me in an article about “A Surge of Hate” (see <http://www.newsweek.com/id/236202>), but those media attacks really aren’t working, so now they have to bring in the big guns, with Bill Clinton, of all people, attacking Oath Keepers by name in several speeches and interviews (that’s when you know you are doing something right!) and with a focused government COINTELPRO style campaign to smear us.

To recap: The BOD decisions included these facts:

1. We need to make it hard, not easy, for those elements within government to accomplish their smear campaign. Since Oath Keepers is not a militia, but rather an outreach and educational organization focused on current serving police and military, if they want to portray us as a militia, the last thing we should do is give them a gift by speaking at an event that includes militia leaders as speakers and **where the rhetoric from “some speakers ” is about warning the government that they will fight if necessary**. We understand why those speakers are taking that stand, and don’t begrudge them doing so, but that is not our mission. Nor do we insist that our membership not attend that rally. They are welcome to do so, but as individuals and not as representatives of this organization.

2. The intel we had that affected our decision was about the government **smear campaign** against Oath Keepers, and not about the event itself. The government actually does fear our real mission and cannot confront it head on. They can only use lies to fight us and must “transform” our movement into something they can more easily deal with.

Our message is non-violent, lawful, and true to the Constitution. And it is something that the bad elements among the political elites don’t know how to deal with directly. We need to be aware of their goal – to make us look like a militia – and we need to make it difficult for them to do that by sticking to our mission of outreach to the current serving.

Stewart Rhodes
Oath Keepers [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:27 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Moyers/Winship: The Real Villains

The Tea Party Crowd Needs to Wake Up to Who the Real Villains Are

By Bill Moyers and Michael Winship [article link](#)

Posted on April 16, 2010, Printed on April 18, 2010 AlterNet

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

With all due respect, we can only wish those Tea Party activists who gathered in Washington and other cities this week weren't so single-minded about just who's responsible for all their troubles, real and imagined. They're up in arms, so to speak, against Big Government, especially the Obama administration.

If they thought this through, they'd be joining forces with other grassroots Americans who in the coming weeks will be demonstrating in Washington and other cities against High Finance, taking on Wall Street and the country's biggest banks.

The original Tea Party, remember, wasn't directed just against the British redcoats. Colonial patriots also took aim at the East India Company. That was the joint-stock enterprise originally chartered by the first Queen Elizabeth. Over the years, the government granted them special rights and privileges, which the owners turned into a monopoly over trade, including tea.

It may seem a bit of a stretch from tea to credit default swaps, but the principle is the same: when enormous private wealth goes unchecked, regular folks get hurt -- badly. That's what happened in 2008 when the monied interests led us up the garden path to the great collapse.

So the Tea Party crowd should be demanding accountability from Bank of America, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, Wells Fargo, and scores of hedge funds and private equity firms that constitute what we loosely call Wall Street.

But are the culprits taking responsibility for devastating the lives of millions of ordinary Americans? Don't kid yourself. If you've been watching them appear before congressional committees and the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission -- the independent inquiry that's supposed to find out what really happened -- you've no doubt been reaching for the Pepto-Bismol.

Here's Robert Rubin, former Treasury Secretary and director of Citigroup, testifying last week. "Almost all of us involved in the financial system, including financial firms, regulators, ratings agencies, analysts and commentators missed the powerful combination of forces at work and the serious possibility of a massive crisis," he said. "We all bear responsibility for not recognizing this, and I deeply regret that."

Okay, maybe you didn't have a crystal ball. But what about good, old-fashioned business sense? How could you make so much money and not know the score? "You are talking about a level of granularity no board will ever have," Rubin claimed. Citi paid you \$120 million as a senior advisor and rainmaker and you're not responsible for knowing what's happening below you? You didn't bother to assess the risk you were peddling to clients?

The committee heard a similar alibi from Chuck Prince, who served as CEO of Citigroup during its meltdown: "Let me start by saying I'm sorry. I'm sorry that the financial crisis has had such a devastating impact on our country And I'm sorry that our management team, starting with me, like so many others, could not see the unprecedented market collapse that lay before us."

Commission Chairman Phil Angelides, the former state treasurer of California, wasn't buying it. "The two of you, in charge of this organization, did not seem to have a grip on what was happening," he said, and to Rubin, "I don't know that you can have it two ways: you were either pulling the levers or asleep at the switch."

Nonetheless, the financiers wail, it was all an enormous accident, a once in a century calamity, an act of God. But of course that's not true. Lots of people saw it coming and made a bundle, taking off with the loot at the expense of the millions who lost their jobs, homes and savings. There's no longer any question that many bankers continued to game the system after the collapse -- still paying themselves exorbitant salaries and bonuses while hitting everyday people with usurious same day paycheck loans, credit card fees and other charges -- and refusing to help small and medium-sized businesses that could be creating employment.

The Tea Party gang really should have dropped by those Senate hearings this week looking into the failure of Washington Mutual, the bank that went belly up during the meltdown in September 2008 - the largest such failure in American history.

As an 18-month Senate investigation revealed, WaMu made subprime loans that its executives knew were rotten, then packaged them as mortgage securities and pawned them off on unsuspecting investors. Loan officers were paid by the number of mortgages they sold, and ran up the numbers by lying to customers and falsifying data so they could make bigger bucks and win trips to Maui and the Caribbean. At one Washington Mutual office in Montebello, California, 83 percent of the housing loans contained bogus information.

Then there's Lehman Brothers. Their misfortune, apart from some chicanery only now coming to light, was being small enough to fail. During those black September days two years ago, the Feds decided it was expendable and let it go, leading to America's biggest bankruptcy ever. In an admirable job of journalism this week, The New York Times reported that Lehman secretly controlled a company called Hudson Castle. Critics say it was used by Lehman to borrow money and to hide bad investments in commercial real estate and subprime mortgages.

But the week's award for sheer gall goes to a Chicago area hedge fund called Magnetar, named after a kind of neutron star that spews deadly radiation across the galaxies. Thanks to the teamwork of the investigative reporting website ProPublica, as well as public radio's Planet Money project and "This American Life," we learned that Magnetar worked with Citigroup,

JPMorgan Chase, Merrill Lynch and other investment banks to create toxic CDO's -- collateralized debt obligations -- securities backed by subprime mortgages that management knew were bad. Then Magnetar took that knowledge and bet against the very same investments they had recommended to buyers, selling short and making a fortune.

To simply call all of this "creative accounting" is to do it an injustice. This is corruption, cynicism and greed on a scale that would make the Roman Emperor Caligula cringe. Or rather, the Emperor Nero. He didn't just poison the citizens of Rome; legend has it that he burned the place down, fiddling around in the ashes, just like our Wall Street tycoons.

But since we know all this, why is it so hard to hold Wall Street accountable? Which brings us to what the Tea Party people should have been complaining about this week. The banking industry and corporate America are fighting against proposed financial reform with all the money and influence at their disposal, attempting to preserve a system that would enable them to ransack the country once again.

Look at Eric Lichtblau's report this week, also in The New York Times, under the headline. "Lawmakers Regulate Banks, Then Flock to Them." The financial services industry has hired more than 125 former members of Congress and congressional staffers from both parties to help them fight off accountability.

No wonder, too, that this headline appeared in the Times this week: "GOP Takes Aim at Plans to Curb Finance Industry." That's not surprising. Earlier this year Republican politicians told Wall Street: Give us the scratch and we'll scrap reform.

The GOP's SWAT team -- also known as the United States Chamber of Commerce -- has already spent three million dollars to try to kill or cripple a key part of reform -- the proposed new Consumer Financial Protection Agency. With the Chamber as their front, corporations have bankrolled ads that make it seem like the Red Army is at our doorsteps.

Advocates for reform have countered with ads of their own, but Democrats are deeply in hock to Wall Street, too. Remember the hedge fund Magnetar that bet against its own products? The owners covered their bets with ample campaign contributions to Rahm Emanuel. Yep, the same -- President Obama's White House chief of staff. At the time he was an Illinois congressman and chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, which collected millions of dollars from the financial services industry.

In fact, the website Politico.com reports that "the nation's ten richest hedge fund managers have dumped nearly one million dollars into campaign accounts over the past several years... consumer advocates and critics from other financial sectors say hedge funds would get off pretty easily" under the Senate reform bill.

Bottom line: **"The Wall Street banks are the new American oligarchy - a group that gains political power because of its economic power, and then uses that political power for its own benefit."** So write Simon Johnson, former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund; and James Kwak, former management consultant and software entrepreneur, in their important new book, "13 Bankers: The Wall Street Takeover and the Next Financial Meltdown."

Their words of warning and the past year and a half make you realize that as usual, Thomas Jefferson, whose birthday we celebrate this week, had it right. Back in 1816, he wrote, "I sincerely believe... that banking establishments are more dangerous than standing armies."

Bill Moyers is the host of [Bill Moyers Journal](#) on PBS.

© 2010 Independent Media Institute. All rights reserved.

The Roots of Stalin in the Tea Party Movement

By Yasha Levine [article link](#)

April 17, 2010 | AlterNet

The Koch family, America's biggest financial backers of the Tea Party, would not be the billionaires they are today were it not for the godless empire of the USSR.

AlterNet [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:56 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Anthony Gregory: Waco and the New Brown Scare](#)

Waco and the New Brown Scare

by Anthony Gregory [article link](#)

April 19, 2010 LewRockwell

Seventeen years ago, on April 19, 1993, the FBI finished off its siege of the Branch Davidians' home just outside [Waco, Texas](#), by pumping poisonous and flammable CS gas into a room filled with women and children, driving a tank through the wall, throwing incendiary devices at the survivors and, most likely, spraying them with machinegun fire. The conflagration that engulfed the lives of seventy-six people of diverse international and ethnic backgrounds and of all ages, who had been brought together under the fringe but peaceful religious separatism of David Koresh, came at the end of a 51-day standoff that began when the ATF bungled a public-relations stunt in the form of an aggressive raid of the Davidian home, which had been practiced on life-size model buildings and whose planning began in the lame-duck years of the first Bush administration. Koresh could have easily been arrested without all this fanfare and violence – he was an integrated member of the town, and law enforcement had visited the Davidian home and even fired weapons with him at their shooting range – but the ATF had made sure the press would be there to witness their chivalrous swooping in and capture of this menace of Mt. Carmel. Meth lab! Weapons stockpiles! Child molesters! The excuses for this federal militarism in the heart of Texas were numerous and shifting. But when it was all done, a peaceful American community had been utterly destroyed by the U.S. government.

It was an event that crystallized and radicalized populist rightwing anger at the Clinton administration. The left, for the most part, stood by the federal government, swallowed its propaganda about how the Davidians killed themselves, had been a threat to the community, were stockpiling illegal weapons and harboring child abuse. At the White House press conference, journalists applauded the regime. Liberals mocked the religious nuts and began stoking fears that such extremists were not the last. They were thankful to be "protected" by the FBI. Only the most anti-establishment leftists joined the populist right and radical libertarians in their denunciation of this act of governmental mass murder.

As bad as mainstream attitudes toward Waco were in the immediate aftermath, the popular meaning of the massacre was fully inverted through the Oklahoma City incident exactly two years later, on April 19, 1995. This act of mass murder was blamed on rightwing and anti-government extremism, and even on the more moderate anti-Clintonianism of Rush Limbaugh, who himself declared publicly his solidarity with Clinton in bringing the Oklahoma killers to justice. (Just recently, [Slick Willy](#) raised concerns that the Tea Parties would breed more Timothy McVeighs.) As for the facts that McVeigh was trained by the government, served the U.S. in the Gulf War, and described the Oklahoma attack as revenge for Waco – this was twisted into a retroactive vindication of the government's behavior at Waco. As with the blowback explanation of 9/11, the blowback explanation of Oklahoma City with the corollary that U.S. government violence leads to violence at home never got a serious hearing. On the contrary, post-Oklahoma, sympathy for the Branch Davidians became increasingly perceived as sympathy for McVeigh's cause.

What emerged in the mid- and late-nineties was a narrative of hysteria and paranoia that the populist right, the patriot movement, anti-New World Order types, so-called "hate groups," and the nation's diffuse array of militia were all part of a rightwing conspiracy to bring down the U.S. government, and only federal police agencies, the rigorous liberal domestic interventionism of the Democratic Party, and a new era of political correctness engineered by our socially balanced rulers stood between order and chaos. This narrative worked in dampening the right's dissent. While the Contract with America was a Republican scam whose failure could be pinned on the GOP, the anti-Clinton radicalism behind the 1993 resistance to Hillarycare and anger about Waco were most completely neutralized by the militia hysteria that conflated David Koresh with Timothy McVeigh and conservative dissent with anti-American terrorism.

[This narrative was suspended during the Bush II era](#), when the main terrorist threat was seen as coming from abroad, and the Republican administration was busy erecting a 21st century national security state and launching two aggressive wars of occupation purportedly to keep Americans safe from a boogeyman even worse than McVeigh – a boogeyman with an alien culture, plans to conquer America in the name of Islam or kill thousands or more in the attempt to do so, and turn back the clock a millennium. For a few years the left dissented, at times heroically, viewing the conservative wing of America as a danger insofar as it wielded power, not insofar as it protested government. This meant the left's critiques were far more trenchant and correct than in the 1990s, but at the same time Bushian violence was mostly opposed in the context of respectable public policy disagreements. Most left-liberals saw Bush's Iraq war as a disaster, but would not dare put U.S. wars on the same moral plane as the acts of 9/11 or Oklahoma City.

There were exceptions. On the fringes of the left, there were grand denunciations of Bush as a fascist, a Nazi, a war criminal. Images at antiwar protests depicted the president with a Hitler mustache. Those on the far left compared Bush to the most despised of all totalitarians, and the center left brushed off this radical rhetoric as harmless and in the spirit of dissent, the highest form of patriotism.

But these radicals were exceptions. In any event, most of the left failed to be permanently radicalized in the Bush years. Waco had been mostly forgotten, and progressives could not be bothered to rethink what they thought they knew about their beloved federal government. They knew they hated Bush, but most Democratic voters would never come to revise their understanding of Clinton's wars and domestic depredations, or see the Bush term as just a particularly egregious installment in a long series of murderous and authoritarian presidencies – a line of would-be dictators that included most of the left's favorite modern statesmen from Harry Truman to Lyndon Johnson.

In September 2005, the Bush administration's response to Katrina taught the leftwing dissidents all the wrong lessons. Instead of reacting in horror to the martial law, the gun confiscations, the use of FEMA and military personnel back from Iraq to tame the people of New Orleans, seeing these as dangerous precedents for the creation of a police state, the respectable left adopted the universal critique that Bush was not doing enough. The government was too laissez-faire. As always, the problem with Republican rule was that it was insufficiently activist – even at the height of an administration that amassed so much power in Washington, unleashed terror upon two Muslim societies, murdered hundreds of thousands of people, and penetrated one traditional constraint upon government after another, we were all supposed to hate Bush mostly because he was too anti-government.

The failure of the left to learn the obvious lessons from the Bush experience – the Actonian axiom that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely – has contributed to the peculiar political dynamic and maddening hypocrisy we see now that the Brown Scare is coming back, perhaps worse than it was in Clinton's time or even in FDR's, when the president had a long list of political enemies compiled for purposes of imprisoning them if the right circumstances arose.

It is increasingly often that one mainstream news outlet or another [builds on the narrative](#) that the fabric of America is being threatened by out-of-power rightwing extremists. This narrative thrives through the conflation of varying strains of anti-establishment thought and activity, all bundled together to paint a picture of American Brown Shirts conspiring not to erect the modern activist central state, as the Nazis had done, but do tear it down. This hysteria is partisan, and so it is directed against relatively mainstream Republicans, the odd loose-cannon killer motivated by extremism or racism, normal Americans who fear for their country's economic health under a conspicuously active presidency, and everyone in between who is not ecstatic about Obama's policies.

How is the conflation of anti-government sentiment and actual violence, including against the innocent, achieved? A contribution from Salon.com to the new Brown Scare, entitled "[A history of anti-government rage and violence](#)" and providing an eerie slideshow of anti-government extremism, is fairly typical. Opposition to Obama's health care plan is shown to be part of a menacing historical pattern of resistance to the U.S. government – the slideshow includes the Whiskey Rebellion; the New York Draft Riots; opposition to Reconstruction, Integration and Social Security; anti-JFK animosity and the Davidians' resistance Waco. Some of these events involved violence, others simply peaceful political opposition, but all of it is missing its crucial context – a government at least as belligerent as those standing in dissent. Not that all of it is benign: the Draft Riots, for example, involved violence against the innocent – but so did the draft itself and the way Lincoln militarily pacified the rioters. This part of the story is dropped. In portraying the government in these

conflicts as the embodiment of social order, progress, racial harmony, economic fairness and national unity, critics of a government takeover of medicine are practically called out as enemies of all that is good in modern society. Quite tellingly, the Vietnam war protesters are also included in this picturesque story of nefarious anti-government agitation. Even the progressive left's greatest anti-government cause of the last several generations, the 1960s antiwar movement, is in the crosshairs of the liberal media's pro-government depiction of American history as a struggle between the mainstream state and the peripheral Americans who oppose it.

It is again gauche to suggest that the U.S. government is a serious threat to our liberty. While the left at times appropriately condemned Bush's warmaking, warrantless wiretapping, violations of habeas corpus and flouting of due process, the left has now become resigned to the precise policies being carried out by their hero Barack Obama. Just as important, they have forgotten what it meant to be more afraid of their government than of their fellow Americans upset about that government. All this Bush-era despotism continues unabated, but now it is seen as unseemly, unpatriotic, hateful, and even criminal to suggest that the U.S. government has authoritarian practices and totalitarian designs.

When Sarah Palin was taken to the woodshed for suggesting that the government might create "death panels" to ration health care to the elderly, the implication was that the mere concern about such a possibility was motivated by hatred or dishonesty. But we all knew that in the quasi-private health care sector, decisions of life and death are already decided by medical boards at hospital boards and insurance companies. If the government becomes even more involved in determining the allocation of resources, of course something like government death panels will be a likely result. But more strikingly, the very same institution that massacred the Branch Davidians under Clinton, slaughtered innocent Iraqis and Afghans under Bush, and now, under Obama, claims the prerogative to execute American citizens by fiat, is somehow seen on the left as such an unambiguous guardian of health and American well-being so that to insinuate its propensity to let Americans die is an act of sedition. Sarah Palin's sins go beyond her concern about Obamacare – and for the most part, they are not her unmitigated neocon warmongering, corporatist economic prescriptions or disregard for the Bill of Rights. What she is most attacked for is not being sufficiently in love with leviathan. During the presidential election, she was lambasted for her foreign policy ignorance but she was feared more for her husband's connection to secessionists. Had her partisan opponents ever genuinely wanted to rein in the American empire, surely secessionist sentiment would be welcomed, or at least tolerated, as an acceptable disposition.

And in the hatred of secessionism, of the ideas of nullification and political decentralism, we see the ugly nationalism of the politically correct left. Even constitutional talk of the Tenth Amendment makes one a "Tenther" – on par with a 9/11 Truther or Birther – as though the notion that the Tenth Amendment has some teeth and might, by some reasonable interpretation, preclude at least some of the left-liberal program, is not worth seriously refuting – as though there is something cultish and insidious about believing that the federalism of the Framers is not the national supremacism of today. The federal government is an eternal institution, apparently, and Sarah Palin has associated with too many folks who question its legitimacy.

Glenn Beck, too, is primarily hated for his questioning the authority of the federal government – not his many past calls for foreign war and nationalism, but for his current failure to accept government's slow war on the American people. For most of the left, the palatable Republican personality is someone like Lindsey Graham, who despite being a neocon on war is also pro-Cap and Trade and in favor of moderate domestic socialism. Graham has not been accused of hatemongering or threatening the tranquility of our great land, even as he pushes for new executive powers to detain American citizens indefinitely. Hating welfare, global warming alarmism, gun control and ACORN are the worst transgressions against respectability. You can crazily favor war with Iran – as increasing numbers of progressives seem to – and still be in the community of official opinion, but if you harbor too much fear and distrust toward FEMA, you might as well be locked up in an asylum.

The Tea Parties have been dragged through the mud because some of their members dress up like colonial-era Americans, protest the census and go so far as to compare Obama to Hitler. But I was at several antiwar marches in 2003, and the radicalism on the left was just as ostentatious and, from my point of view, appreciated. Leftist radicals would perform street theater, covering themselves with fake blood, holding up images of Bush in precisely the unflattering light in which discontented populists now portray Obama, and in some heroic cases even pleading their fellow Americans to protest war taxes.

But now it is considered insane, if not dangerous, to question the census, the Department of Homeland Security or other worshipped secular institutions. On the Daily Show with Jon Stewart, a number of census opponents were brought on a panel and ridiculed. One of them was an Arab-American concerned with the privacy rights of his people, and his concerns were brushed off in a rude joke – despite [the collusion](#) between the Census Bureau and Homeland Security post-9/11 to share data on Arab-Americans. The conservatives were mocked for talking like middle-Americans. The fact that the census was used to round up Japanese-Americans was brought up and met with laughter by the audience. I bet at least a few were thinking, "Obama would never round people up like the U.S. did to the Japanese – he's a good progressive Democrat, like Franklin Roosevelt!"

Sarah Palin, Glenn Beck, Republican talk radio, the Tea Party movement and other relatively mainstream voices of Obama opposition do not comprise all the targets in the establishment's new Brown Scare. They, especially the Tea Parties, are meant to be chilled into silence and complacency or marginalized – but the ammunition used by the new war on right-wing dissent comes from the weaving together of a narrative that depicts the right-wing as most perilous when it is out of power.

Since the release of the MIAC report last year and a number of unrelated incidents, the liberal media have been thrilled to create an image of disenfranchised rightwing anti-government hatred on the brink of boiling over and doing great harm to our country. When abortionist George Tiller was murdered and then [James von Brunn](#) murdered a guard at the Holocaust museum, a hysterical Rachel Maddow went on the air and tried to create a connection where there was none. Like Saddam Hussein, Osama bin Laden and the Pakistani who runs the nearby convenience store, all menacing figures are brought together in an imagined conspiracy against the established order. The [Hutaree militia](#) set-up, wherein a group of people too small for two poker tables was accused of planning violence against police and using "weapons of mass destruction" to bring down the U.S. government, was met not with suspicion or even laughter, but serious concern on NPR, on Rachel Maddow, in the center-left imagination of a future in which police and social workers protect us from the chaotic violence of nine people in Michigan. Such journalists scrambled to show a connection with racist groups, only to determine there was none. But the idea of anti-government racists killing police is at the center of their worries now – not the police tasing and arresting innocent Americans every day and occasionally killing people, much less foreign policy. Just as rap songs about killing cops scared conservatives out of their wits in the 1990s, the ravings of some marginal Americans in the woods who had been infiltrated by [the FBI](#) are the new social epidemic worrying the left, worthy of censorship and a stern government response. The government is now the most persecuted victim group – worthy of far more advocates in journalism than the Muslim children being liquidated by U.S. remote-control robots every day.

A new report from the Southern Poverty Law Center, which under Democratic regimes becomes a virtual arm of the state, targets the new "patriots" and enablers of the "anti-government" extremist movement. Much of the list is predictably absurd. Michelle Bachman is attacked for opposing the census, telling the truth about how it was used in World War II, and having skepticism toward AmeriCorp. "Somewhere, Joseph McCarthy must be smiling," the document says, and I agree. His spirit is smiling at the efforts to malign all in political life who subscribe to something even more subversive than Communism – any notion that U.S. political power ought to be limited. Glenn Beck is also targeted, and the criticisms are not even coherent – for example, "he delivered the keynote address to 10,000 right-wing activists who attended the Conservative Political Action Conference." Oh no!

Joseph Farah is smeared because he questioned the official story behind Vince Foster's death. The president of the John Birch Society is attacked because, like all good Birchers, he hates socialism and fears it is in America's future. Libertarian and other anti-government activists are targeted in the new SPLC blacklist, including a man who legally carried a rifle to some political protest (and who unsettlingly points out that Obama has killed more people than he has), and Sheriff Mack, who dares to say law enforcers should not enforce unjust, illegal laws and that the IRS should be abolished.

But most absurd of all is the SPLC's attacks on Judge Andrew Napolitano and Ron Paul. The judge, a principled libertarian who opposed all of Bush's lawless power-grabs and acts of foreign empire-building and who consistently applies the same critiques to Obama, is targeted for believing the federal government should be at least 2/3 smaller than it is now and supporting the rights of states to secede. The most substantive criticism of Ron Paul, the most principled, least partisan and most dedicated to non-violence and tolerance of all the members of Congress, is that he believes that taxation is immoral, the U.S. should withdraw from the UN and the Fed is crooked.

The only thing most, although not all, of the people branded as enablers of or participants in rightwing extremism agree on is that they oppose the current U.S. government and believe tyranny is possible and perhaps impending in America. For this they are smeared and all attempts are made to chill their dissent. Some would call the fear of crackdowns on dissent itself a form of rightwing paranoia, but when establishment liberals happily talk about prosecuting people for "seditious conspiracy" and creating speech codes, there is plenty to be legitimately concerned about.

Further, many of the concerns of the extremist rightwing, the patriots, the anti-government populist movement, the Tea Parties and even inconsistent statist like Glenn Beck are not off-base. And the most disenfranchised and least respectable of the voices are often the ones who stumble upon something resembling the truth.

Seventeen years ago in 1993, the federal government did in fact murder dozens of Americans who were no threat to anyone. The same government has in fact violated the rights of American citizens, rounded people into concentration camps, silenced and infiltrated politically peaceful groups, conspired against the people in numerous ways, drugged, poisoned and withheld medicine from Americans without their knowing, lied repeatedly about war and serious law enforcement matters, jailed people without due process, imposed martial law on segments of the domestic population, seized guns from law-abiding gunowners, broken down American doors and held scared children at gunpoint, planned the creation of extralegal judicial institutions to process American citizens, targeted political enemies with the IRS and other police agencies, forced Americans to labor and even kill and die under threat of imprisonment, overseen the largest prison system in the world, shoveled trillions of borrowed dollars to corrupt financial institutions and killed millions of civilians abroad – all in the lifetime of many who are still alive. The U.S. police state has in fact been growing since 9/11 and even before – and Obama has done nothing to stem its growth. On the contrary, he has continued the mix of economic fascism, imperialism, surveillance and lawless detention policy that characterized the Bush years.

Indeed, the most dangerous rightwing extremist in my lifetime was George W. Bush. Obama is following in his footsteps. That so many Americans are more frightened of rightwingers out of power than in power – more bothered by conservatives who hate Washington than those who control or want to control it – and more offended by anti-government rhetoric than the Democratic president continuing the policies they claimed to hate under Republican rule – shows how little they have learned from Waco and all that has happened since.

Anthony Gregory is a research analyst at the [Independent Institute](#). He lives in Oakland, California. See his [webpage](#) for more articles and personal information.

Copyright © 2010 by LewRockwell.com

LewRockwell [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:40 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Saturday, April 17, 2010

Michael Gass: US Foreign Policy: Sixty Years of Disaster

US Foreign Policy: Sixty Years of Disaster

by: Michael Gass [article link](#)

Thursday 15 April 2010 t r u t h o u t | News Analysis

On August 19, 1953, pro-Shah supporters in Iran staged a coup on the Iranian government that was planned, organized and supported by the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and British Intelligence. Iranians lived under the brutal rule of Mohammad-Reza Shah Pahlavi for the next 25 years until the Iranian Revolution in 1979. Though the CIA-led coup in Iran was the first time the agency overthrew a democratically elected government, it wasn't to be the last. In 1954, the CIA orchestrated a coup against the democratically elected president of Guatemala. In 1963, the CIA orchestrated the coup in Iraq that eventually brought Saddam Hussein and the Ba'athist Party to power. In 1973, the CIA orchestrated a coup against the democratically elected leader of Chile. In every case, those who were helped into power instituted regimes of terror and violence. These regimes prompted bloody revolutions, or worse, US-led invasions. Either way, hundreds of thousands of people have been killed due to US foreign policy.

Securing access to Middle East oil using military force if necessary became US foreign policy in 1945 under President Roosevelt and was officially adopted as US foreign policy by President Carter in 1980. The CIA coup in Iran in 1953 was, arguably, the beginning of the global war for oil resources. In 2002, the CIA failed in its attempt to overthrow Hugo Chavez in Venezuela. In 2003, the US-led invasion of Iraq toppled Saddam Hussein's regime. Regime change in Iran is still seen as a priority. In 2007, ABC news reported that the CIA was secretly using the terror group Jundullah to attack Iranian officials. In 2009, former CIA official Robert Baer stated in an interview with Time magazine that the CIA did indeed have contact with the group Jundullah, but, characterized it as "sporadic." What these three countries have in common are vast amounts of oil reserves.

Tom Collina, executive director of 20/20 Vision, a national, nonpartisan organization promoting increased citizen participation on global security and environmental issues, [testified before a Congressional subcommittee in 2005 \(pdf\)](#): "America has tried to address its oil vulnerability by using our military to protect supply routes and to prop up or install friendly regimes. But as Iraq shows, the price is astronomical - \$200 Billion and counting. Moreover, it doesn't work - Iraq is now producing less oil than it did before the invasion. While the reasons behind the Bush administration's decision to invade Iraq may be complex, can anyone doubt that we would not be there today if Iraq exported coffee instead of oil?"

In order to use military force to secure access to Middle East oil, the United States must have bases in or near the region. In 1990, after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the US military gained its first foothold, establishing bases in Saudi Arabia and other countries. [A CRS Report to Congress \(pdf\)](#), dated December 2001, stated, "Many Arabs in the Middle East resent the presence of non-Muslim western forces, which evoke memories of European colonialism. In particular, the presence of western military forces on Saudi soil is seen by some as a desecration of the Islamic holy places of Mecca and Medina, which are located in Saudi Arabia. Significantly, the first grievance listed by Osama bin Laden in his fetwa (Muslim legal opinion) of February 1998 was the US military presence in the Arabian Peninsula and this complaint seems to have resonance in the region. Even some individuals and leaders who are less concerned with the US military presence on religious grounds tend to suspect a long-term US plan to maintain military bases in the Middle East." The US would maintain combat troops in Saudi Arabia for the next 13 years.

The same report further stated, "Of particular concern to many in the region is the possibility that the United States may expand the current campaign against Osama bin Laden and the Taliban to target Iraq or possibly other Muslim countries on the State Department's terrorism list (such as Iran, Syria, or Libya). At a meeting of the 56-member Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on October 10, 2001, attendees refrained from criticizing the US campaign against bin

Laden/Taliban forces in Afghanistan, but rejected the targeting of any other Arab or Muslim country. Key allies such as President Mubarak of Egypt and King Abdullah of Jordan have urged the United States not to take this step, which they think could cause a major backlash in their countries and elsewhere in the Middle East." The fears of these leaders were realized when the US invaded Iraq in 2003, built numerous military bases and occupied the country while continually trying to gain a casus belli for an attack on Iran.

The Iraqi Parliament ordered all US troops out of Iraq by 2011. The United States government, however, has continually tried to negotiate a permanent military presence in Iraq, thus, keeping the bases in Iraq already established. With US troops having been ordered to withdraw from Iraq by next year, the Obama administration is now looking toward Afghanistan and President Karzai's regime as the central point for US bases in the Middle East. In this light, it is no wonder that President Obama proclaimed during a visit to the troops in Afghanistan, "If I thought for a minute that America's vital interests were not served, were not at stake here in Afghanistan, I would order all of you home right away."

Afghanistan's vital strategic placement in the Middle East for US military bases becomes even more apparent as the revolt in Kyrgyzstan unfolds. In February 2009, the government of Kyrgyzstan announced that it would force the closure of the base maintained by the United States, apparently at the behest of the Kremlin. Then, four months later, the president of Kyrgyzstan reversed that decision, stating that the base could remain open at an increased rent and with new limits on the United States forces. Now, as the president of Kyrgyzstan was forced to flee the country, the fate of the US base is again uncertain.

With the war in Afghanistan still going on and the uncertainty of further military operations by the United States in the Middle East, there will come a point when the world's leaders either capitulate to US oil interests or take a stand.

Michael Gass is a former Explosive Ordnance Disposal Specialist and veteran of the Gulf War during operations in Iraq in 1991. He returned to Iraq in 2006 as a US contractor doing ordnance disposal. Gass performed numerous VIP protection missions for the US State Department to include presidential protection missions for Presidents Reagan, Bush Sr. and Clinton. He graduated from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy with honors in 1996 and spent six years in law enforcement.

truthout [home page](#)

When Empire Hits Home

by Andrew Gavin Marshall

Part 1: [War, Racism and the Empire of Poverty](#)

Part 2: [Western Civilization and the Economic Crisis: The Impoverishment of the Middle Class](#)

Part 3: [The Global Economic Crisis: Riots, Rebellion and Revolution](#)

Part 4: [The Transnational Homeland Security State and the Decline of Democracy](#)

Nation of Laws and Lawlessness: America is Policing Itself and the World

by Prof. John Kozy [article link](#)

Global Research, April 16, 2010

Global Research [home page](#)

Green Scare: The Making of the New Muslim Enemy

by Deepa Kumar [article link](#)

Published on Saturday, April 17, 2010 by CommonDreams.org

CommonDreams [home page](#)

America and the Dictators

From Ngo Dinh Diem to Hamid Karzai

by Alfred W. McCoy [article link](#)

Published on Thursday, April 15, 2010 by TomDispatch.com

TomDispatch [home page](#)

Beyond Iraq and Afghanistan, does Washington see the lurking threats against America?

Though focused on wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the US must mind other trouble spots.

By Walter Rodgers [article link](#)

March 17, 2010 CSM Commentary

The Christian Science Monitor [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:24 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Friday, April 16, 2010

Tabachnick/Berkowitz: The New Apostolic Reformation

The New Apostolic Reformation

An interview with Rachel Tabachnick

By Bill Berkowitz [article link](#)

April 07, 2010 Z Magazine

Rachel Tabachnick is an independent researcher who specializes in End Times narratives. In 2008 she assisted Bruce Wilson in publishing a video of John Hagee's sermon about Hitler being sent from God as a hunter of Jews. She continues to provide research on the Religious Right for political campaigns from local school boards to national organizations and was a presenter at the recent PA Progressive Summit 2010 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania where she spoke on the "sacralization" of economic and political issues by the Religious Right.

BERKOWITZ: Most people aren't aware of the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR). Tell us what we should know?

TABACHNICK: Imagine for a moment that a large block of the evangelical world decided to re-organize themselves in a hierarchy resembling the Roman Catholic Church, with leaders in authority over each nation and region. Imagine that every person—from the congregants to the top leaders—has someone to whom they are accountable.

Although this is not the first time this has been tried, this "second reformation" is having more success. It is organizing within a mega-block of Protestants larger than all the traditional denominations put together, as well as "post-denominational" churches. It's heavily charismatic, made up of born again, but also "spirit-filled" Christians—sometimes called neo-charismatics or neo-pentecostal. They believe that spiritual gifts, such as speaking in tongues, casting out demons, and faith-healing powers, are signs and wonders that will help evangelize unbelievers in preparation for the End Times.

C. Peter Wagner, a key figure in the movement, streamlined the ideology and named it the "New Apostolic Reformation." Wagner serves as the presiding apostle of the International Coalition of Apostles (ICA), which includes several hundred apostles across the U.S. and about 40 nations, international training centers, and "prayer warrior" networks in all 50 states and worldwide. Those in the top tier each have apostolic authority over other ministries, sometimes hundreds or even thousands.

Many of the leaders teach prosperity doctrine—or the belief that the more you give to ministries, the more God will bless you. But this is not just a church movement. Market apostles work in business, finance, communications, media, and lead the "Reclaiming the Seven Mountains of Culture" mandate.

"Kingdom" businesses play an important role. For instance there is an apostle in Toronto whose ministry includes an oil and gas company. Two ICA Apostles head Markets Unlocked, a business matchmaking system that connects Kingdom business customers and suppliers, and claims exclusive agreements for over a half billion dollars of products and services. Trained intercessors are now paid to pray for businesses. ICA Apostles work closely with the International Christian Chamber of Commerce.

Leaders are encouraged to get involved in social services to expand their influence in government and society. One apostle, a former fitness instructor, is now listed as a policy expert at the Heritage Foundation and claims to have distributed \$30 million in gifts and donations during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He has expanded his organizations to Fiji, Poland, and Southeast Asia.

Wagner teaches that there will soon be a great transfer of wealth from the ungodly to the godly and has set up structures to prepare. Wagner's Leadership Institute teaches courses in prophecy, but also in foreign currency exchange.

How has this movement grown so rapidly?

Church growth is the key concept. Other Christian dominion movements propose austere biblical law, but Wagner explains in his 2008 book *Dominion* that theocracy will not be necessary. He believes rapid growth of the movement will allow Christians to take dominion inside a democratic framework.

Wagner, who will be 80 this year, was a professor of church growth for 30 years at Fuller Theological Seminary. He has mainstreamed cell church ideology, a strategy which began in Asia and South America and has resulted in congregations of tens of thousands. Cell churches are organized like a pyramid marketing scheme with small groups, usually with no more than 12, tasked with spinning off new cell groups and growing the church. This also resembles a military structure—each cell has a leader and lower level leaders are accountable to their superiors on up the chain.

Such schemes used to be called shepherding, but, because of bad press and reports of coercive and abusive practices, they have been re-named "discipling." Laypeople in cells perform many of the functions that would normally be carried out by pastors—and pastors then become like corporate CEOs. The New Apostolics are now trying to apply shepherding to entire communities and even nations.

What do the terms spiritual mapping and spiritual warfare mean and where do they come from?

Spiritual warfare is not a new term, but the New Apostolics have now co-opted it. With the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, Wagner promoted unique evangelizing tools as part of a frenzied effort in the 1990s to evangelize the world before 2000. Instead of slowly winning souls one by one, Wagner proposed that entire geographic areas and people groups be targeted, speeding up the process.

These new strategies include strategic level spiritual warfare and spiritual mapping designed to win territory. This is accomplished by doing battle with demons or principalities that they believe cause entire ethnicities, religions, and geographic areas to resist conversion. After expulsion of the demons, the evangelized population can take "dominion" over local government and culture. Then the community supposedly experiences a foretaste of "God's Kingdom on Earth." These mini-utopias are advertised as having reduced poverty, corruption, and disease. This is the ultimate faith-based initiative—remove the demons and society will be healed.

Spiritual mapping is the reconnaissance mission for spiritual warfare and involves the literal mapping of neighborhoods and cities to determine where the demons are. This includes "generational curses" or those things in a city's history that allowed demons to take hold of the entire populous. Spiritual mapping is the ideological foundation for the now popular "prayer walking" and the formation of many citywide prayer groups.

Wagner, George Otis, Jr., Ed Silvoso, Ted Haggard, John Dawson of Youth With a Mission, and others created an entire genre of books, texts, videos, and other media teaching spiritual mapping and spiritual warfare, including a glossary of new terms. The Transformation DVDs produced by George Otis, Jr. are promotional "documentaries" showing prototypes of this process in which supernatural transformation of a community takes place, including the healing of AIDS, instantaneous purifying of polluted streams, and even growth of huge vegetables. These movies have been shown to millions globally, and Transformation organizations are attempting to replicate these prototypes in their local communities.

The Transformation ideology originated from western evangelicals—witch-hunting and all—and the prototypes have included cities like Hemet, California. Ugandan Julius Oyet, who starred in one of the Transformation movies, is a key figure in the recent proposed draconian anti-gay legislation in that county.

How are these strategies put into practice?

Although many of the claims made in the Transformation movies can be easily disproved, the movement's advancement appears to be partially due to the promotion of Transformations prototypes. Supernatural healings of AIDS, spontaneous destruction of property of other belief systems, and even claims that the prayers of the movement have killed other humans are featured in films shown worldwide, including to mainline Protestant churches and "renewal" groups, which have subsequently broken from their parent denominations.

The movies appear to have played a role in encouraging mythology that flourishes in the Religious Right and beyond, particularly in their assertion that thousands of cases of AIDS in Uganda have been miraculously cured. Medical leaders are warning these claims are interfering with their HIV/AIDS treatment. Since altering their AIDS programs to abstinence-only, promoted by U.S. evangelicals, Uganda has had an increase, not decrease, of new AIDS cases.

To give you an idea of how deeply entrenched the New Apostolics are in this policy, consider one of the most celebrated abstinence-only programs in the U.S. "Recapturing the Vision" and "Vessels of Honor" are names for abstinence-only programs headed by Jacqueline del Rosario, who testified for Title V abstinence-based funding in Congressional hearings in 2002. Since 2001, her Miami organizations have received \$3,147,589 of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant money, as well as significant sums from other public sources. This funding came despite the fact that her organization was one of four in a long-term, federally-funded study that showed no measurable results.

Del Rosario was a speaker, along with Wagner and other top apostles, at a conference in January where she was described as an Apostle in the promotional literature. Her relationship with the Apostles is not new, however. She incorporated her organizations in the mid-1990s with leading Florida Apostle Diane Buker, head of Battle Axe ministries, and Cindy Trimm, described as a "general in the art of strategic warfare." Buker is the author of *God's Power to Multiply for Wealth* and her Battle Axe Brigade ministry website features a graphic of an arm swinging a medieval mace, as well as virulent attacks on Catholicism and other faiths.

Another political area in which New Apostolics is deeply entrenched is John Hagee's Christians United for Israel. Hagee is still teaching that the Rapture may happen any moment, but many of his directors and leaders teach that they must take dominion over the earth, including Israel, before Jesus can return. These include ICA Apostle Stephen Strang, who heads the Strang charismatic publishing empire, and regional director Robert Stearns, who publishes a New Apostolic journal titled *Kairos*. Stearns also leads the largest single international Christian Zionist event, involving 200,000 churches worldwide. His ministry has been endorsed by the Knesset's Christian Allies Caucus and by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Are there well-known politicians involved with the NAR?

The Transformation movies show that they have access to many political figures, from Fiji to South America to Africa. Transformation Hawaii has the full participation of Lt. Governor Aiona, who has spoken at conferences and written for the movement. Lou Engle, a prophet in Wagner's inner circle, has recently been in the news leading an anti-health-care reform prayercast with Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC), Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS), and Representative Michelle Bachmann (R-MN), among others. In May, Engle led another televised event in which he prayed over Newt Gingrich and Mike Huckabee.

The New Apostolic movement more closely resembles a political campaign than a denomination. Wilson has written about *PrayforNewark*, a citywide project in which every precinct and street has been assigned to a volunteer and mapped out for prayer. However, *PrayforNewark* is part of Ed Silvoso's ITN, the same operation that is "transforming" Uganda, and promoting the belief that homosexuals are possessed by literal demons.

Where does Sarah Palin fit into all this?

The movement made early inroads in Alaska through an ICA apostle named Mary Glazier, who claims that a 24-year-old Palin joined her spiritual warfare network. These networks allow apostles to communicate and disseminate new prophecy to their prayer warriors. During the presidential election this included such prophecies about Palin, as when Glazier described a vision that Palin would take the mantle of leadership after a period of national mourning following the death of John McCain.

The first Transformation movie so impressed pastors in Wasilla, Alaska that they contacted some of the religious leaders featured in the movie—including Thomas Muthee, shown driving a "witch" out of Kiambu, Kenya. The Wasilla Assembly of God developed an ongoing relationship with Muthee and a 2005 church video shows him anointing Palin. Unfortunately, the press picked up on the witch part of the story, not the more important fact that Palin has ties to top leaders of the New Apostolic Reformation.

Why should the American people be concerned about NAR?

I believe this movement's threat to separation of church and state is greater than some of the more overtly theocratic movements of the Religious Right. Unsuspecting people are becoming involved in New Apostolic activities without understanding its agenda.

Wagner's ideas have spread widely into mainstream evangelicalism with little public notice. Haggard, former president of the National Association of Evangelicals, partnered with Wagner in founding the New Apostolic Reformation and building its early headquarters, the World Prayer Center in Colorado Springs. Despite the fact that Haggard has written books on New Apostolic strategies, his participation in promoting this massive reformation of both church and society is so little known, it could be described as Haggard's other secret.

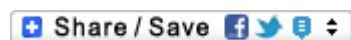
Bill Berkowitz is a freelance writer covering conservative movements.

Bill Berkowitz [ZSpace page](#)

Z Net [home page](#)

Z Magazine [web page](#)

The Spirit of Resistance Lives



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:31 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Chip Berlet: Christian Apocalyptic Belief

Who Are the Hutaree Militia, And Why Do They Want to Kill Cops?

By Chip Berlet, Religion Dispatches [article link](#)

Posted on April 16, 2010, Printed on April 16, 2010

Late last month, the nine members of the Hutaree Militia were charged with, among other things, ‘seditious conspiracy,’ which carries a maximum of a life imprisonment if convicted. The incident has raised concerns over domestic terrorism and left many confused about Christian apocalyptic belief, which requires some basic history to sort out.

The Hutaree [hoo-TAR-ee]—which means “Christian warrior” in the group’s [secret language](#)—were preparing “for the end time battles to keep the testimony of Jesus Christ alive.” They believed that “one day, as prophecy says, there will be an Antichrist. All Christians must know this and prepare, just as Christ commanded.” And they obliged by forming [a citizens’ militia underground cell](#) and arming themselves. Their plans, according federal officials, began in August 2008.

In order to explain why the Hutaree militia was arming itself to battle the Antichrist and federal law enforcement we need to explore the intersection of Christian fundamentalist apocalypticism with citizen militias, the Patriot Movement, and right-wing populism.

Something Old and Something New (World Order)

Conspiracy theories date back many centuries, with a major outbreak in the late 1790s of plots by Freemasons to smash both church and state. These plots were rewritten in the latter part of the 1800s to target Catholics; then by a sector of the Populists who saw the perpetrators as a giant octopus of plutocrats and bankers; and again in the early 1900s to scapegoat Jews. Talk radio pioneer [Father Coughlin](#) railed against the ‘banksters’ and Jews working behind the scenes in the Roosevelt Administration.

Since the early 1990s, a sector of the political right in the United States has embraced a specific set of conspiracy theories revolving around government plans to impose tyranny through the United Nations or some such international body. These conspiracy theorists, egged on by groups like the John Birch Society, claimed that George H.W. Bush was planning a New World Order before attacking the Clinton administration for political assassinations and drug running. The storyline morphed in recent years into fears that the government of the United States planned to destroy national sovereignty by merging with Mexico and Canada to form a North American Union. That theory first surfaced among right-wing opponents of President George W. Bush. Along the way, right-wing media demagogues and Republican Party activists and elected officials fanned the flames.

Now as the Obama administration enters its second year, these conspiracy theories have led to aggression and violence and an alleged domestic terrorist plot. Why is anyone surprised? The widespread public dualist demonization of scapegoated targets has a sordid and violent history. It has happened here. Some fundamentalist Christians portray the government as in league with the Satanic Antichrist in the prophetic End Times.

Christian Apocalypticism and Fundamentalism

An “apocalypse” in its simplest generic sense is an approaching struggle between good and evil during which hidden truths are revealed and the course of history is dramatically altered. Major Protestant denominations, the Catholic Church, and the Orthodox Churches embrace a soft form of Christian apocalyptic expectation, which in many cases refers back to prior historic periods. Some, though not all, Christian fundamentalists are imbued with heightened apocalyptic expectation about upcoming prophetic events.

Before the Puritans became colonists, “Protestant apocalyptic tradition envisioned the ultimate sacralization of England as God’s chosen nation,” observes Avihu Zakai in *Exile and Kingdom*. We tend to forget that the shining “city upon a hill,” was a beacon for a patriarchal Protestant theocracy that executed recidivist dissidents. The goal was to sanctify a new nation as the proper place for the prophesied return of Jesus the Christ. And the Civil War? “Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord?” See the narrative emerging?

Apocalyptic stories are an integral part of the American psyche, bleeding from theology into popular culture over the past two centuries: from *Moby Dick* to *High Noon* to *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Hal Lindsey (with C. C. Carlson) ignited the fuse of contemporary fundamentalist apocalyptic expectation with *The Late Great Planet Earth* published in 1970 by Zondervan.

Some 20-40 percent of the population of the United States tell pollsters that the biblical prophecies about an End Times battle between Godly Christians and the evil forces of Satan predict actual future history. About 10-15 percent of our neighbors say they hope to see the Second Coming of Jesus Christ in their lifetime. The numbers vary over time and due to the ways questions are structured. It is clear, however, that more people are excited by this type of apocalyptic belief than can be explained by counting the actual parishoners sitting in the pews in fundamentalist churches. Most of these folks, however, are not considering actual criminal acts or violence.

Brenda E. Brasher notes that apocalypticism can be constructive or destructive, pointing to the sustaining “role of apocalyptic Christianity among African slaves brought to the United States,” and in the “anti-slavery abolition movements and the Civil Rights movement.” However, if the scapegoated “other” is “constructed as wholly evil, then the ramifications are really horrendous,” [warns Brasher](#).

“This is not a disagreement, but a struggle with evil incarnate, so there is no structure for a peaceful reconciliation” in which “people are cast in their roles as either enemy or friend and there is no such thing as middle ground,” Brasher explains, “In the battle with evil, can you really say you are neutral?”

The problem, then, is not Christian fundamentalism or apocalyptic belief per se but with forms of Christianity (or any religion) that condone or ignore scapegoating, fundamentalist movements that become totalitarian, or apocalypticism combined with dualistic demonization.

Where can we find this? I have a shelf of books published in the past 20 years in which right-wing fundamentalists warn of an impending apocalyptic battle pitting Godly Christians against sinful secular elites, those in favor of government social welfare programs, Muslims, New World Order internationalists seeking global cooperation, people working for peace, abortion providers, sinful homosexuals, and many more named scapegoats.

Militias, Tea Parties, and Right-Wing Populism

Why are there so many angry people? The Tea Parties are part of a broad Patriot Movement in the United States cobbled together from several preexisting formations on the political right:

- * Economic libertarians who worry about big government collectivist tyranny.
- * Christian Right Conservatives who oppose liberal government social policies
- * Right-wing apocalyptic Christians who fear a Satanic New World Order
- * Nebulous conspiracy theorists who fear a secular New World Order
- * Nationalistic ultra-patriots concerned that US sovereignty is eroding.
- * Xenophobic anti-immigrant white nationalists who worry about preserving the “real” America.

These grievances are interacting in a global economy often eager to accommodate corporate interests. And now we add in the fact that an economic downturn that has left millions unemployed or underemployed leaving the largely white, middle-class, Republican Tea Party activists scared that they may be kicked down the socioeconomic ladder next; the election of a “mixed-race” self-identified black man as president at a time when the demographics of the country reflect a growing percentage of people of color, all in the context of the unfinished conversation about race in America; and the disquiet among social conservatives who see abortion and gay rights through the lens of sin and immorality and anguish over the future of the family and traditional gender roles sometimes seen as mandated by God.

Spinning out of this broad Patriot movement that chronically appears throughout US history come armed citizens’ militias. The Militia Movement in the United States gained headlines in the mid 1990s. Like today, this earlier militia activism was part of a right-wing populist surge that ran from the Republican Party on the reform side to organized white supremacist groups on the insurgent side. This is not one unified movement, but a series of overlapping ones—think of the Olympic symbol of five interlocking rings. It’s quite plausible that sectors of the broad Patriot movement can work together on a common project without all of them actually agreeing on anything but stopping the secular liberal conspiracy to enslave America.

The story embraced by the armed militias in the 1990s was that the government of the United States was part of a secret plan to establish a One World Government as part of building a New World Order. The debate at the Patriot and militia meetings I attended in the 1990s was whether or not the plot was controlled by the Freemasons, the Skull and Bones Society, the Corporate Elites, the [Bilderbergers](#), or the agents of Satan in the End Times. Occasionally, someone would pull me aside and whisper that it was actually the Jews.

The ’90s militias are widely seen as part of a right-wing populist revolt against the administration of Democrat Bill Clinton, but it actually began under the administration of Republican George H.W. Bush, who was seen as a cosmopolitan internationalist eager to build the nefarious and tyrannical [New World Order](#). Today’s militia activism can be traced in part to the North American Union [conspiracy theory](#) that percolated up during the last Bush Administration.

Is Obama the Antichrist or False Prophet?

Last July the following appeared on a Web post: “Obama is the false prophet, Javier Solana the Antichrist, add Satan and you have the unholy trinity. God help us all.” Republicans in New Jersey disagree, 29 percent of them think that Obama “is or might be the Antichrist.” Apparently the Hutaree Militia speculated that Javier Solana (the former Secretary General of NATO and the Secretary-General of the European Union) was the Antichrist, and that the US government merely played a supporting role in Satan’s evil End Times gambit.

As Robert C. Fuller observed in his classic *Naming the Antichrist: The History of an American Obsession*, the candidates for the starring roles vary over time in fundamentalist eschatological analysis. Some see Islam as the religion of the false prophet, the theological sidekick to the Antichrist. After 9/11 there was an increase in the demonization of Muslims in some Christian evangelical circles, especially those in which apocalyptic conspiracy theories flourish. For example, Hal Lindsey joined in the Islam-bashing in 2002 with *The Everlasting Hatred: The Roots of Jihad*. Speculation in conspiracy circles that Obama is secretly a Muslim, perhaps born in Kenya, add fuel to this bigoted fire.

Paul S. Boyer, author of *When Time Shall Be No More: Prophecy Belief in Modern American Culture*, suggests that religious views about biblical prophecy in the United States have “always had an enormous, if indirect and underrecognized, role [in] shaping public policy.” If the message of apocalyptic demonization is not clear, try reading one of the novels by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins in their *Left Behind* series of Christian apocalyptic novels which have sold more than 70 million copies.

Writing in the *American Prospect*, Gershom Gorenberg blasts the authors because they:

promote conspiracy theories; they demonize proponents of arms control, ecumenicalism, abortion rights and everyone else disliked by the Christian right; and they justify assassination as a political tool. Their anti-Jewishness is exceeded by their anti-Catholicism. Most basically, they reject the very idea of open, democratic debate. In the world of *Left Behind*, there exists a single truth, based on a purportedly literal reading of Scripture; anyone who disagrees with that truth is deceived or evil.

The main villain of the *Left Behind* series of books, Gorenberg notes, is “Nicolae Carpathia, the man who turned the United Nations into a one-world government with himself as dictator,” on behalf of Satan. In fact, Carpathia is the dreaded Antichrist. According to Gorenberg:

Perhaps the most striking scene in the *Left Behind* series is the climax of book six, *The Assassins* [when] Carpathia is speaking at a mass rally in Jerusalem. Out in the crowd is [underground Christian resistance leader] Rayford Steele, armed with a high-tech handgun. He prays for God’s guidance, and finds himself firing what appears to be a fatal shot at Carpathia. Intentionally or not, this is an eerie rewrite of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin’s assassination at a Tel Aviv peace rally in 1995—but the authors are on the side of the fanatic killer.

These types of conspiracy theories swirl through the Tea Party movement and into others on both the Christian and non-Christian Right. Before his novels, LaHaye wrote a series of books popular in the Christian Right in which he laid out the master plan of the conspiracy of liberal secular humanists. Big government and collectivism was part of the sinister plan. LaHaye claims it was Satan who arranged the “crafty election of Franklin D. Roosevelt as president for twelve years.” This was part of a secret conspiracy to turn the “American Constitution upside-down,” in order to “use our freedoms to promote pornography, homosexuality, immorality, and a host of evils characteristic of the last days.” LaHaye says the “Antichrist philosophy already controls America and Europe,” and that:

We are the only nation that can halt the socialist Marxist enthronement of the UN as THE GLOBAL GOVERNMENT of the world, but it will require a conservative administration and Supreme Court committed to judicially interpreting our nation’s laws that were originally based on moral biblical principles.

When the Tea Party activists warn that Obama’s big government policies will lead to totalitarian rule so that Obama is like both Hitler and Stalin, they’re likely drawing from the writings of free-market economic libertarian [Friedrich August von](#)

[Hayek](#) or those theories as transmogrified by the conspiracist John Birch Society. When the Tea Party activists warn that Obama's health care plan will pull the plug on grandma, they're likely drawing from the anti-abortion and anti-euthanasia writings of conservative Christian philosopher [Francis Schaeffer](#) or those theories as refracted through the lens of apocalyptic Christian conspiracy theorists such as Tim LaHaye and Pat Robertson. So while the Tea Party movement and the armed militia movement may not be exactly on the same page, they are torn from the same essay on right-wing populism.

'Extreme' Demonization

The government has a legitimate law enforcement role in stopping domestic terrorism, though most dissidents on the political right and left are not breaking any laws and are protected by the First Amendment. The current and volatile right-wing populist movement spans from reform-oriented conservative black Republicans to recruiters for insurgent white supremacist groups, with the Tea Party activists and members of citizens militias falling somewhere between these ideological and methodological poles. It would be sloppy to lump all of these folks into one undifferentiated mass of potential terrorists.

The word "extremism," which is tossed back and forth by both Republicans and Democrats, is a delegitimizing buzz word used by to demonize dissidents across the political spectrum. It was used in the 1960s, for example, to imply that the white segregationists and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. were two sides of the same problem of "extremism." King addressed being framed in this way in his "[Letter from Birmingham Jail](#)." Today the government uses the tem "extremism" to suggest dissident ideas on the right or left place people on a slippery slope toward terrorism. It's time to stop using the term altogether.

The dynamic of widespread political demonization and scapegoating is not a problem for the police to solve. Religious, political, business, and labor leaders have to find a backbone and demand an end to the demonization of political opponents as traitors out to destroy America. Republicans need to distance themselves from conspiracist demagoguery and accept some moral responsibility for the nasty polarization in our society while Democrats must stop dismissing the angry right-wing populists in the Tea Party movement as ignorant and crazy. All of us need to stand up and call for a vigorous, thoughtful, and even raucous national debate over public policy while opposing all forms of demonization and scapegoating as toxic to democracy.

Chip Berlet, senior analyst at Political Research Associates, is co-author of *Right-Wing Populism in America: Too Close for Comfort*, and a contributor to *Dispatches from the Religious Left*.

© 2010 Religion Dispatches All rights reserved.

AlterNet [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:06 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Patrice Lewis: Sowing the Seeds

Sowing the Seeds of Domestic Terrorism

by Patrice Lewis [blog link](#)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2010 Rural Revolution

About a year ago, I was contacted by a broker interested in representing several conservative writers for consideration with an online news organization. He asked each of us to write a 1000 to 1500 word column on the subject of our choice so he could submit the columns for consideration. I got paid - rather nice for once - but apparently I didn't make the cut. So this column, which I rather liked, has been languishing on my computer, doing nothing. I can't really submit it anywhere else because it was "timely," meaning it's now out of date.

So, for your reader edification, here it is.

Sowing the Seeds of Domestic Terrorism

A few weeks ago, I conducted an act of domestic terrorism. I ordered non-hybrid garden seeds.

Yes it's true. We happen to be concerned about the future of our food sources in this country, and to us the most sensible solution is to grow, raise, or make our own vegetables, meat, eggs, and dairy products. That, according to the Department of Homeland Security's report on Rightwing Extremism, makes us potential domestic terrorists because we have a "fear and paranoia" of an "impending economic collapse."

But my acts of defiance don't end there. Did you know that we live in the country? Rural folks are automatically suspected of nefarious activities because we don't like clustering in urban highrise apartments. Country transplants must have something to hide or we wouldn't have bailed out of the cities, right? (Shhhh – don't tell anyone, but I have a secret recipe for this incredibly subversive pesto....)

The DHS has a "thing" against folks who enjoy self-sufficiency and independence. Anyone who doesn't fawn on the cradle-to-grave interference now in vogue is automatically suspected of domestic terrorism. Watch out or I'll lob my heirloom tomatoes at you.

It's so diverting – tra la la – to go down the list of things in the DHS report that qualify me for "special attention." For example, did you know that our weekly neighborhood potlucks have moved into the realms of domestic terrorism because we "may be gaining new recruits by playing on their fears about several emergent issues"? You betcha. Radicals that we are, our dinnertime discussions often center around things like stockpiling food, seeds, fencing, canning jars, and building materials...and yes, our concerns and fears about the current administration and Congress as well.

Two of these neighbors are presently unemployed and are in danger of losing their home. They're scared spitless and make no bones about it. I guess that makes them potential terrorists too, because "the consequences of a prolonged economic downturn – including real estate foreclosures, unemployment, and an inability to obtain credit – could create a fertile recruiting environment for rightwing extremists and even result in confrontations between such groups and government authorities similar to those in the past." If only our neighbors would keep quiet about their fears.

My husband recently inventoried our ammunition supplies and determined that it never hurts to get more. Therefore we are guilty of "stockpiling of weapons and ammunition... in anticipation of restrictions and bans..." Damn straight. He even bought five raffle tickets for a sweet little .410 shotgun. Horrors!

Or how about this gem: "Both rightwing extremists and law-abiding citizens share a belief that rising crime rates attributed to a slumping economy make the purchase of legitimate firearms a wise move at this time." No duh.

The DHS – like much of the current administration – seems obsessed with skin color. Variations on the “historical nature” of “the first African-American president” are mentioned three times in their report, as if any of us give a diddly-doo about Obama’s race. I don’t think it’s occurred to the dimwits at the DHS that our concern isn’t about skin color, it’s about using the Constitution and Bill of Rights as toilet paper. Since when does our sincere wish for the government to adhere to the documents of our Founding Fathers constitute racism?

Even more interesting, the report mentions “white supremacists” eight times and only grudgingly draws distinctions between those of us with legitimate concerns about our economic, moral, and social decline...and those who can’t see past a person’s melanin content. Obviously the Feds don’t realize just how deeply hated white supremacists are in Flyover Country.

Naturally, vicious crime is attributed only to rightwing extremists. “A recent example of the potential violence associated with a rise in rightwing extremism may be found in the shooting deaths of three police officers in Pittsburg, PA on 4 April 2009,” snarks the report. “The alleged gunman’s reaction reportedly was influenced by his racist ideology and belief in antigovernment conspiracy theories...” Uh, what about the deaths of FOUR non-black police officers in Oakland, CA in March of this year by a black parolee? Was this also an example of “rightwing” extremism? Or is it just an example of some jerk who went on a murder spree? Whatever the motives in the two sets of killings, seven police officers are dead. That’s tragic no matter what hue of skin color was involved.

As for the DHS flag to watch out for those who “are dedicated to a single issue, such as opposition to abortion or immigration” – well it makes sense, doesn’t it, to concentrate on a single issue and dedicate yourself to fighting it? We can’t battle everything or we’d be spread too thin. So if you happen to think babies have the right to be born, Janet Napolitano will nail you as dangerous.

And of course we all have issues with illegal immigration. I am the granddaughter of legal immigrants. I have three foreign-born, legally-immigrated sisters-in-law, all of whom learned English, obtained an education, and are contributing to the economy. Don’t tell me I’m xenophobic. Legal immigration has aided immeasurably in the growth of our country. Illegal immigration does little but drain resources and contribute to the crime rate. Of course I’m against it. Any sane person is.

The report also categorizes our returning soldiers as potential terrorists. What an interesting development. The DHS didn’t pick on police officers or border agents – they picked on soldiers. Could it be because these brave men and women have been on the front lines and have seen what the enemy is like? Could it be that they recognize the government’s recent tendency to pander to dictators and sweet-talk terrorists ain’t gonna work? Maybe. Or maybe soldiers just make socialists nervous.

For those of us in Flyover Country, our collective concern (more like fear) about the state of our economy makes us guilty of incorporating an “aspect of an impending economic collapse to intensify fear and paranoia among like-minded individuals and to attract recruits during times of economic uncertainty.” Yes it’s true – we’ve discussed our concerns about the economy with an ever-wider circle of friends and relatives, and they all agree it’s a problem. Do you see the conspiracy spreading?

Oh, and let’s not forget the government-sponsored slaughters that took place at Ruby Ridge, ID and Waco, TX. According to the DHS report, anyone who believes the government’s actions during these particular incidences were criminal – regardless of our opinions of Randy Weaver or David Koresh – is automatically classified as “rightwing extremist” and “hostile.” How nice to know the government can come in and shoot my thirteen-year-old daughter in the back because her parents don’t like socialism. Koresh and Weaver became isolationists because they were afraid the government was after them. The government came and killed a bunch of their people to prove Koresh and Weaver were wrong. Or does this make me sound hostile?

Then there’s always the happy notion of “mandatory registration of all firearms in the United States” for which “a correlation may exist between the potential passage of gun control legislation and increased hoarding of ammunition...” YA THINK?

Sheesh, folks, get a grip. The DHS is using a few loose screws to classify anyone who disagrees with the current administration as a domestic terrorist. Sounds to me like our government is doing its best to turn us all into criminals who can be picked up and charged whenever it suits the government's needs. What a warm and fuzzy thought.

The DHS report concludes by urging "recipients of this document to report information concerning suspicious or criminal activity to DHS and the FBI... When available, each report submitted should include the date, time, location, type of activity, number of people and type of equipment used for the activity..."

Okay, then here's the skinny: I ordered twenty-three different types of non-hybrid seeds at 1:52 pm on March 23 from a company in Oregon, which were delivered on April 10. The shotgun raffle drawing is on May 27. Our weekly neighborhood potlucks (type of equipment: propane stove) involve about ten people and take place on Thursdays at 6 pm, alternating homes. Bring a dessert.

I expect a knock on our door any day now. If they arrive over the weekend, they'll be able to witness me sowing my domestic terrorism in the greenhouse. Don't be late, boys, the onions have a 120-day maturity period and I need to sow them as soon as possible.

Patrice Lewis

I'm a practical constitutional Libertarian stay-at-home gun-toting homeschooling cow-milking rural-living Christian mom.

Rural Revolution [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:07 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Mayberry: I Watch, With Pity...](#)

I Watch, With Pity...

by Mayberry [blog link](#)

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2010

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

I'm watching all these "protests" going on, knowing all are in vain. The "Online Tax Revolt", which I did join just for shits and grins, really is a complete joke. CONgress is probably laughing their asses off at that one. The "Tea Party" rallies, taken over by Repugnicans. Sarah Palin and Mitt Romney. BARF! Doesn't anyone realize that Romney is responsible for Taxachusettes' communist healthcare? But he's against big government. Sure, and Hugo Chavez is against censorship....

I'm watching the new castrati staging their "armed" rally for Second Amendment rights, safely across the line in Virginia, where carrying a loaded pistol is legal. **Their rifles will be slung on their backs, unloaded, muzzle to the ground, in pitiful subservience to a bunch of bullshit rules and regulations, created by a bunch of Viagra popping bureaucrats looking for their last hurrah.** Seeking their mental hard-on by imposing their will via position of "power" over us "underlings". Piss on that. I will not bow to the will of any man. If I carry a weapon, it will be loaded. It will be ready for it's intended use, to hell with the mandates of cowards who fear those who would assert their rights as granted by their Creator.

That, my friends, is why the erectile dysfunctional "ruling class" is trying to demonize and marginalize Christianity. Because they fear anyone who understands that their right to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness is granted by God, not some limp noodle with a title in an overpriced suit.

The fear of Free thinking individuals is the impetus for their ever expanding web of control and regulation. They are cowards of the first order, incapable of, or unwilling to either produce for, or defend themselves. Instead, they create an impenetrable web of lies and deceit, branded under the trademark of "law", which only they have the capacity to understand, or the ability to implement in an "equitable" fashion.

I don't buy any of that for a minute. And they don't either, which is why they've gone to such great lengths to indoctrinate/enslave us, via threat of violence/incarceration. That is why they come up with non-crimes like "sedition". That is why they seek to stifle Free Speech via rose colored regulations like the "fairness" doctrine. That is why they seek to monitor every aspect of our lives through garbage like the "patriot" act...

They play on weak minded individuals' desire for "safety" and "security", and introduce false "threats" to bolster their position as "provider". They bring us such garbage as "political correctness", in order to divide us and keep us preoccupied. They continually stir up "racial tensions", in order to keep us off balance.

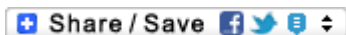
Tell me, do any of y'all give a crap what color anyone is? I don't, and I suspect 99% of us don't either. **We prepper folk are intelligent, and we've moved way past racial divides. We judge folks on the content of their character, not their skin color or ethnicity.** Yet the PTB work as hard as they can to keep racial divides open and festering.

I could give a rat's ass what color you are, where you're from, what religion you are..... All I need to know is if you're a good person, period. Scumbags come from every walk of life. White, black, brown, yellow, or orange with purple polka-dots, it makes no difference. I will stand in defence of a black Muslim who believes in Liberty, and shoot a white "Christian" shithead who rapes, steals, or otherwise pisses me off.

But the PTB wants to paint me as a "racist redneck tea bagging domestic terrorist sumbitch" because I oppose their tyranny. **Well, I do oppose their tyranny.** Tough shit.

I will not oppose it by some castrated "demonstration". No weak ass "protest" will make any difference. The bastards "in charge" rule by threat of force, and that is the only thing they understand. You will not garner their full attention unless you employ their own tactics. Want to impress the PTB? Piss on their "laws". **March on DC locked and loaded, in open defiance of their unConstitutional "laws". Peacefully, of course.** Let those bastards fire the first round. Prove them the cowardly dictators that they are. Never stand down, never surrender. You know you are in the right.... Stay tuned....

Keep It Simple Survival [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [7:02 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Glen Ford: White Nationalism on the March

Tea Partiers: White Nationalism on the March

by Glen Ford [article link](#) [article link](#)

Published on Thursday, April 15, 2010 by Black Agenda Report

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

The campaign to bring White nationalism, the founding ideology of the United States, fully out of the closet, kicks into a higher gear on the Right's anti-holiday, April 15. Newt Gingrich and the various tribes of White Rightists unveil their "**Contract From America**," a scaled-down version of the manifesto the Republicans rallied around to win control of the U.S. House of Representatives, in 1994. The [2010 "contract"](#) is leaner, built for mass Caucasian consumption. It is written largely in code, the language of obfuscation that American racists speak in an attempt to hide their white supremacist beliefs from others - and, in many cases, from themselves. Indeed, much of American mass political speech is conducted in code, allowing white people to identify each other through terms like "middle class," "family values," "taxpayers," "patriots," "law-abiding" - terms which, although literally applicable to people of every ethnicity, are understood to mean "good white American citizens."

Corporate media almost universally describe the Tea Partiers as "anti-government" - which is nonsense. **They oppose the government providing assistance - economic, legal, educational, real or imagined - to those that are "undeserving," which in their world consists mostly of folks that can be defined by race, language or religion (using code words,**

when required by polite society). Naturally, the average Tea Partyer - when sober - will deny having "a racist bone" in his body, but any group whose unifying characteristic is daily engorgement on Rush Limbaugh and Glenn Beck is, by definition, racist. Anyone who tries to tell you different, is far too tolerant of bigoted behavior, assumptions and speech to be anything but a closet racist, himself.

Tea Partyers live in a world of throbbing hatreds that render them damn near incoherent. They shout and hoot and holler in fevered support of political statements with which they cannot possibly agree. For example, the highly popular "Limited Government" plank of The Contract states:

"The purpose of our government is to exercise only those limited powers that have been relinquished to it by the people, chief among these being the protection of our liberties by administering justice and ensuring our safety from threats arising inside or outside our country's sovereign borders."

That means, the government should provide only police, criminal justice and public safety services, and a national defense. No public schools or publicly supported colleges, no tax breaks for homeowners, none of the public supports that "middle class," "law-abiding," "patriotic," "taxpayers" with strong "family values" have been demanding for themselves for the last 65 years. ("And don't you dare touch my Medicare!")

Any "movement" that actually believed in as shrunken a government as The Contract describes would be either very rich, or very tiny. The plank only begins to make sense when understood as a kind of scatter-shot code talk for restricting government assistance to "worthy" Americans, and cutting the flotsam and jetsam people loose.

What the Tea Partiers really oppose is a social contract among all the resident peoples of the United States. In this, they are indeed the direct political progeny of the Founding Fathers and the great mass of white settlers, who found the very concept of full U.S. citizenship for Africans and Native Americans monstrously repugnant, a devaluation of their superior white selves. Racism in the national womb prevented the United States from forging a genuine social contract between whites and Others. More to the point, white people rejected any relationship that did not recognize and maintain white supremacy. This was to be forever a White Man's country, expanding as far as might and money could take it - but white, white, white.

The white nationalists want their white nation back. But they can't have it. And, since there can be no bargaining on that issue, there is no reason whatsoever for Blacks and browns and people of good will to engage or humor the Tea Party's white nationalists. **There is nothing to concede to them, and nothing they can offer us to which we are not already entitled.**

Prominent peace activists are eager to [engage the Tea Party](#), in search of common ground in opposition to government waste through war. It is true that Tea Party darling Rep. Ron Paul, the libertarian Republican and former presidential candidate, fights as hard as anyone on The Hill against bloated military budgets. **But the anti-war movement will soon discover that all but a sliver of the Tea Party crowd are belligerent hawks, as racist in their global worldview as in their domestic outlook. Just as they reject a national social contract with non-whites, they reject any compact with other peoples of the world, particularly the non-white ones. White American nationalism is warlike, expansionist, and proud of it - a grave danger to the survival of humanity.**

BAR executive editor Glen Ford can be contacted at Glen.Ford@BlackAgendaReport.com.
Black Agenda Report [home page](#)

The Tea Partiers' Racial Paranoia

by Joan Walsh [article link](#) [article link](#)

Published on Thursday, April 15, 2010 by Salon.com

Can we stop pretending the anti-Obama movement is a populist, anti-elite uprising?

Salon [home page](#)

CommonDreams [home page](#)

CNN Opinion

Tea Party leader: What we want

By Phillip Dennis [article link](#) Special to CNN

April 15, 2010 4:48 p.m. EDT

CNN Editor's note: Phillip Dennis is the founder of the Dallas Tea Party and the Texas state coordinator for Tea Party Patriots, a member of the Board of Directors of the Leadership Tea Party and an adviser to the National Tea Party Coalition.

CNN Politics

Tea Party names its heroes and targets

By Alexander Mooney [article link](#) CNN Political Unit

April 15, 2010 1:45 p.m. EDT

CNN [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:45 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Butler Shaffer: How We Lost Our Souls

How We Lost Our Souls

by Butler Shaffer [article link](#)

April 14, 2010 LewRockwell

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

Attachment is the great fabricator of illusions;
reality can be attained only by someone who is detached.
~ Simone Weil

Anyone who has not seen the videotape of the July 12, 2007, helicopter attack by American soldiers that resulted in the deaths of unarmed Iraqi civilians and two Reuters news employees, can view it on YouTube. After months of requests, by Reuters, for this video – followed by refusals from the military – WikiLeaks received a copy from an unknown source. The revelation of this atrocity quickly raised criticisms not just of the practice, but of the mindsets of soldiers who could so eagerly and gleefully carry out this slaughter of innocents. Even the shooting of children at the scene produced no apparent sense of wrongdoing on the part of the soldiers. One of the best analyses of this evil act was offered by [Karen Kwiatkowski](#).

How does such moral depravity not just occur, but become so pervasive in our world? The occasional recordings of such behavior touch only the surface of institutionalized viciousness. Was Rodney King the first person to be brutalized by police officers? Were civilians shielded from execution-style murder prior to the My Lai massacre? Did the revelations at Abu Ghraib constitute the first acts of torture practiced by American soldiers upon captive civilians? In each of these occurrences – a precedent no doubt to be followed in the current criminal machine-gunning of Iraqis – one or more scapegoats were selected for punishment, so as to distance the brutality of their actions from the more pervasive inhumanity that inheres in the institutions for whom they acted.

The central theme of my writing has been to demonstrate that allowing institutional purposes to pre-empt our own has been destructive of life, liberty, peace and, ultimately, of civilizations. We have long walked a line between our need for social organization – as a way of satisfying various mutual needs – and becoming so attracted to the systems that serve our interests that we want to make them permanent. **We move imperceptibly from associations that we control in pursuit of our ends, to organizations that become ends in themselves, and that control us in order to foster their**

interests. When this occurs, the informal organization has metamorphosed into an *institution*. I have developed this process more fully in my book, [Calculated Chaos](#).

An institution is no longer a convenient tool for our mutual benefit, but an end in itself; its own raison d'être. It has taken on a life of its own, one that differs from, and usurps, our purposes. Because they can only function and survive through using people, institutions require humans to identify their sense of being with them. To this end, government schools have been established, whose primary purpose has always been to condition young minds in the necessity and desirability of the institutional scheme of things. In the words of Ivan Illich, "[s]chool is the advertising agency which makes you believe that you need the society as it is." Schools also help us learn to seek meaningful and well-paying careers within institutional hierarchies.

When we *identify* ourselves with, and *attach* ourselves to these institutional entities, we absorb their values; their purposes; their *modus operandi*. Such practices of attachment can be analogized to a cancer that metastasizes our inner sense of being. **In the process, we become dehumanized, for institutions have no souls; no emotions; no spiritual, moral, or intuitive sense.** They neither cry, bleed, love, or experience elation. They are *machines* and, like other machines, operate solely on the basis of mechanics, linear processes, and material ends. When we become institutionalized, we become little more than robots – servo-mechanisms – functioning in response to how we have been programmed to perform.

The emotional and spiritual dimensions that make us human are of no value to institutions which, in times of political wrong-doing, urge us to suppress such sentiments. Anything that is nonmaterial is immaterial to members of the institutional order. **In place of deeply-held philosophic *principles*, institutions have *policies*; their sense of "meaning" consists only of *perpetuating* themselves by maximizing their power and material wealth. To such entities, human beings have value only as fungible resources to exploit on behalf of institutional ends.**

It would be easy to condemn the soldiers who engaged in this slaughter as "evil" or "depraved" or "insane" beings. Such is the manner in which we have long accustomed ourselves to blanking out any awareness of the "dark side" of our own unconscious. In such ways have we isolated ourselves from the Hitlers, Stalins, Mao Tse-Tungs, Pol Pots, and other tyrants, leaving us with the comforting feeling that we shared nothing in common with them. But history informs us – if we will only look – that, once we have identified ourselves with any purpose beyond ourselves, we can become capable of the most vicious forms of wrongdoing. How do otherwise decent men participate in a lynch-mob?

The state – an institution that is defined in terms of enjoying a monopoly on the use of violence – is particularly attractive to men and women whose "dark sides" are closer to the surface than those of more tolerant and peaceful persons. When the state energizes this "dark side" – which it does particularly in wartime, the quality that led Randolph Bourne to identify war as "the health of the state" – otherwise decent men and women can turn themselves into agents of savage brutality. When their murderous acts are conducted on behalf of the state – with which most people identify themselves – their actions acquire an aura of legitimacy that would not have obtained under other circumstances; a distinction that would prevent them from becoming serial killers upon their return home.

Identifying ourselves with the state, in other words, has a way of turning us into sociopaths. It is not that the *state* does this to *us*, but that our willingness to attach ourselves to external entities – and the values upon which they are grounded – separates us from our focused inner sense of being. This applies not just to the pilots of helicopter gun-ships over Baghdad, but to more visible political figures such as Madeleine Albright – who defended her Clinton-era policies that led to the deaths of 500,000 Iraqi children – and Janet Reno, who defended her massacre of Branch Davidian men, women, and children at Waco. More recent application of these dynamics are found in George W. Bush's fascination with starting pre-emptive wars against the rest of the world, and Barack Obama's apparent willingness to use nuclear weapons in future pre-emptive attacks, as well as to assassinate Americans.

People who are willing to embrace – or even to tolerate – such sociopathic conduct, have lost all touch with what it means to be human; have lost their souls. No federal bailouts; no increase in the Dow Jones Industrial Average, or decrease in unemployment levels, will overcome this loss. Nor can any "stimulus package" be enacted – with or without bipartisan support – to restore the personal integrity long since lost.

There was a time, not so many decades ago, when brute force – particularly when engaged in by police and military agents of the state – was at least frowned upon, if not condemned, by decent men and women. The threshold level for such practices continues to get progressively lower. A major contribution to Barry Goldwater's defeat in the 1964 presidential campaign, was the unfounded fear that he might be willing to use nuclear weapons in the war in Vietnam. Modernly, Bush's and Obama's willingness to initiate a nuclear war have raised no major outcries from most Americans, who seem to prefer "hope" (i.e., wishful thinking) over intelligent "understanding" as a way of making the world free, peaceful, and productive.

When the 2008 GOP presidential candidate, John McCain, can garner nearly 60,000,000 votes with his sociopathic dance of "bomb, bomb, bomb Iran," should we be shocked by the butcherous conduct of some American helicopter pilots?

Butler Shaffer teaches at the Southwestern University School of Law. He is the author of the newly-released [In Restraint of Trade: The Business Campaign Against Competition, 1918–1938](#) and of [Calculated Chaos: Institutional Threats to Peace and Human Survival](#). His latest book is [Boundaries of Order](#).

Copyright © 2010 by LewRockwell.com.

LewRockwell [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:57 PM](#) [1 comments](#)

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

[Oath Keepers Withdraws From Virginia Open Carry Rally](#)

Oath Keepers withdraws from Virginia Open Carry Rally

PRESS RELEASE, OATH KEEPERS, INC. [article link](#)

April 12, 2010 Las Vegas, Nevada

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

Oath Keepers withdraws from Virginia Open Carry Rally

The Board of Directors of Oath Keepers, Inc. has decided against participating in the “Restore the Constitution” rally in Virginia near Washington D.C. scheduled for April 19, 2010. That rally is organized by a very honorable U.S. Marine Corps veteran who saw combat in Iraq, and who is also a patriotic member in Oath Keepers. The organizer is Daniel Almond of the Georgia Oath Keepers Chapter. Oath Keepers salutes Daniel Almond for organizing this pro-Constitution rally.

Oath Keepers endorses Americans' protected right to keep, and bear, arms. In keeping with our stance, Oath Keepers' representatives have recently performed oath ceremonies at open-carry rallies at several State capitols, including before the capitol buildings in Kentucky and Montana. We fully support the right of Americans to peaceably assemble and publicly exercise their right to bear arms right along with their right to free speech, association, and to petition their government for a redress of grievances.

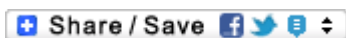
However, because of published statements by some participants in the upcoming Virginia rally, Oath Keepers as an organization feels that a confrontational stance, such as has been published, places this event, in public perception, outside the terms of our stated and published mission. **The mission of Oath Keepers is not to confront the government. Instead, our mission is to reach out to people within government – to police, military, firefighters and first responders – to teach them about their obligations under the oath they took to defend the Constitution, to increase their knowledge of the Constitution, and to inspire them to defend it by refusing to obey unconstitutional, unlawful orders.** That's it. And if we can reach enough of them with that message, it could prevent possible future egregious violations of the Bill of Rights in a very peaceful way. Confronting the government is not included in the Oath Keepers stated and published

mission and as an educational organization focused on the current serving, Oath Keepers refrains from confrontation in deed and rhetoric.

Oath Keepers wishes Daniel Almond and all his supporters a fruitful and meaningful rally. Oath Keepers is not asking our membership to withdraw from attendance, but Oath Keepers is formally asking all Oath Keeper members who attend to do so as individuals, not as representatives of Oath Keepers. We are further requesting that Oath Keeper gear and garments not be worn at this event.

Oath Keepers shall, as planned, participate in the Washington D.C. Second Amendment March on April 19 (www.secondamendmentmarch.com) and shall offer the public an Oath Keepers ceremony in which citizens can themselves stand and reverently take an oath to defend the Constitution right along with current and prior service police, military, and fire personnel (who will be renewing their oaths), all together as patriotic Americans. Please see our banner announcement for this march in Washington D.C. on April 19, 2010, at www.oathkeepers.org

Stewart Rhodes, Founder and National President, Oath Keepers, Inc.
Oath Keepers [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:59 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Thomas/Conant: Extremists On The Rise On The March

Hate Anti-Government Extremists Are on the Rise and on the March

by: Evan Thomas and Eve Conant, Op-Ed [article link](#)

Tuesday 13 April 2010 truthout

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

Stewart Rhodes does not seem like an extremist. He is a graduate of Yale Law School and a former U.S. Army paratrooper and congressional staffer. He is not at all secretive.

In February he was sitting at a table at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) at a fancy downtown hotel in Washington, handing out fliers and selling T-shirts for his organization, the **Oath Keepers**. Rhodes says he has 6,000 dues-paying members, active and retired police and military, who promise never to take orders to disarm U.S. citizens or herd them into concentration camps. Rhodes told a Newsweek reporter, "**We're not a militia. Oath Keepers do not run around the woods on the weekend shooting weapons or threatening the violent overthrow of the government. Their oath is to uphold the Constitution and defend the American people from dictatorship.**"

But by conjuring up the specter of revolution or counterrevolution is Rhodes adding to the threat of real violence? Oath Keepers are "a particularly worrisome example of the 'patriot' revival," according to Mark Potok of the **Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)**, which monitors hate speech and extremist organizations. "Patriot" groups described by the SPLC as outfits "that see the federal government as part of a plot to impose 'one-world government' on liberty-loving Americans" are "roaring back" after years out of the limelight, according to Potok. Notorious in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, the patriot groups seemed to fade away under the shadow of 9/11, but hard times and the nation's first African-American president seem to have brought about a revival from 149 groups in 2008 to 512 (127 of them militias) in 2009, according to the SPLC.

It is easy to exaggerate the numbers of these groups or the threat they pose, especially if you are an organization, like the SPLC, dedicated to exposing such things. Extremist outfits have come and gone over the years. With their preening and prancing about in Nazi garb or white robes, skinheads and white supremacists are often more about showing off than committing acts of violence. Law-enforcement experts worry more about "lone wolves," disturbed loners with military training, like Timothy McVeigh, the Oklahoma City bomber, than they do about loudmouth militia groups. **But the feds and local authorities will be watching closely on April 19, when the Oath Keepers mark their first anniversary and join a Second Amendment March on Washington to celebrate the right to bear arms. The Oath Keepers say they are**

commemorating the first shots of the Revolutionary War fired at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, but April 19 is also the anniversary of the end of the FBI siege at Waco, Texas, in 1993, as well as the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

This is a season, or perhaps an era, when politics seem more intense than usual, and the domestic extremist threat seems more real. **Partisan disputes are rarely pretty, but lately they have taken a particularly ugly, menacing turn.** Last week the FBI arrested individuals for making death threats against House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Sen. Patty Murray of Washington for their votes on health-care reform. A series of -expletive-strewn voice-mail messages left for Senator Murray were particularly creepy: "You're gonna have a target on your back for the rest of your life," the caller warned. "How long do you think you can hide?"

Senate Sergeant at Arms Terrance W. Gainer said last week that serious threats to members of Congress had nearly tripled, from 15 in the last three months of 2009 to 42 in the first quarter of 2010, with most of them coming in March during the height of the health-care debate. Some of the calls and e-mails were "very vicious" and included threats to members' homes and families. "You had people saying, 'I'm going to get your kids, I'm going to get your wife,'E" says Gainer. "It was very disturbing to members."

After the health-reform vote, a tea-party activist in Lynchburg, Va., posted an address for Rep. Tom Perriello on his blog and encouraged readers to "drop by" and express their anger over Perriello's vote for the bill. The blogger got the address wrong. Perriello's brother returned home that day to find that someone had cut the line to a propane-gas tank behind his home. The fact that haters are sometimes incompetent renders them only marginally less frightening. Some threats come from people who are truly unhinged. Federal authorities have charged a man with multiple -- personality disorder with threatening in a YouTube video to kill Rep. Eric Cantor; the suspect is not competent to stand trial.

Economic distress and social change make for fear, and fear makes for anger, now and always. Night riders terrorized the defenseless after the Civil War. During the Great Depression, two demagogues in particular whipped up conspiracy theories against Jewish bankers and the rich elites to arouse angry mass movements. **Huey Long**, governor of Louisiana, later a U.S. senator who wanted to soak the rich, and **Father Charles Coughlin**, an anti-Semitic Catholic priest whose radio show reached 40 million people, seemed a political threat to FDR, until Long was assassinated and Coughlin became increasingly unhinged.

"There was a lot of hatred in the 1930s," says Alan Brinkley, the Columbia University historian and expert on populist movements. But the current surge of fear and loathing toward Obama is "scary," he says. "There's a big dose of race behind the real crazies, the ones who take their guns to public meetings. I can't see this happening if McCain were president, or (any) white male." (Secret Service spokespeople reported spikes in threats against Obama after his election and inauguration, but they've also said the president generally receives about the same number of threats as did Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. They've declined to comment on whether there's been a spike in threats related to health-care reform.)

Fear of "the other" has long fueled hate crimes, from the torture and lynchings by the Ku Klux Klan beginning in the late 1800s, to the violence of the 1950s and '60s, to the virulent anti -- immigrant groups today. In 2008 the Census Bureau announced that whites will make up only half the U.S. population in 2050. "That was a big deal," says the SPLC's Potok. In recent years white-power groups mushroomed and the Klan reversed declining membership.

The Internet has made it easy to express hatred, and may act as a kind of safety valve. But the Internet can also abet twisted minds with vitriol and practical tips, like how to make a bomb.

Middle-aged guys sitting around their basements fantasizing are one thing; addled war veterans with weapons training are another. **Timothy McVeigh** was a Gulf War veteran who read white-supremacist literature and the sort of books that predict a takeover by one-world government agents flying black helicopters. He has, or had, some potential heirs apparent in a recently indicted group called **the Hutaree**, a Michigan-, Indiana-, and Ohio-based militia. According to the Hutaree Web site, the group ranked its followers with weird sci-fi titles like "Radok" and "Arkon." The Hutaree militiamen speculate that the Antichrist is Javier Solana, a former NATO secretary-general and senior official of the European Union. The evidence?

"There is a virtual media blackout on this man," writes John Reynolds, author of a screed on Solana and the Antichrist on the Hutaree Web site. "I see Jacques Chirac and Silvio Berlusconi (sic), Tony Blair, and Prince Charles on the TV all of the time, yet not a word one regarding Solana. Why not?" ("Mr. Solana has now retired and is an elderly private gentleman. This is quite insane," says a spokesman for the European Union's

The rambling rants of the Hutaree might seem funny, in a sick sort of way, but they are far from harmless. The FBI busted nine members last month for allegedly plotting to trigger an "uprising" against the government by assassinating a local police officer and then ambushing colleagues who attended the funeral by blowing up improvised explosive devices. They may have had some professional instruction: one of the men in the group, Michael Meeks, is a Persian Gulf War veteran who served four years in the Marines and was a decorated rifle expert, according to Marine Corps records. Another member, Kristopher Sickles, is an Army vet (discharged "under other than honorable conditions," according to prosecutors). William Swor, the lawyer for Hutaree leader David Brian Stone, says there is no evidence the group was doing anything other than exercising its First Amendment rights.

The Internet offers a dark social network for militiamen and real soldiers. A July 2008 FBI intelligence report by the bureau's counterterrorism division warned that **white-supremacist leaders were encouraging followers to "infiltrate the military as 'ghost skins' in order to recruit and receive training for the benefit of the extremist movement."** (The report said the hate-group leaders were especially interested in planting moles without any documented history with neo-Nazi groups or "overt racist insignia such as tattoos" so they could more easily slip by military recruiters. The FBI identified 203 people with confirmed or claimed military service who were active in extremist groups. On the NewSaxon.org Web site for white supremacists, a blogger called "shadowman" posted a photo of a U.S. Army enlisted man in camouflage carrying a weapon with the boast "i am a professional killer ... a soldier born of war." **The Defense Department has long had a "zero tolerance" policy for membership in extremist groups, but last November the Pentagon quietly tightened its regulations governing such activity, a Pentagon official confirmed to Newsweek.** Not only are service members barred from "active participation" in such groups, they also may not "actively advocate supremacist doctrine, ideology, or causes," according to a copy of the Pentagon regulation.

It is hard to know how much such grim fantasies are stirred by the steady stream of conspiracy theories pushed by talk-radio hosts. Rush Limbaugh talks about the Democrats planning to "kill you" with health-care reform and suggests (agreeing with black Muslim minister Louis Farrakhan, of all people) that it "seems perfectly within the realm of reality" that the H1N1 vaccine was "developed to kill people." Like many talk-show hosts, he uses martial language to rouse the faithful: "The enemy camp is the White House right now," he says. Former Alaska governor turned media star **Sarah Palin** posted on her Facebook page a list of House Democrats who voted for health-care reform with crosshairs aimed at their home districts, while tweeting to her followers, "Don't Retreat, Instead reload!" She strongly denied any intent to incite violence. Other conservative talkers insist their foes are preparing violent attacks on them. **Glenn Beck** of Fox News is the master purveyor of this particular brand of sly paranoia. He suggests that he will be the victim of violence. "I'd better start wearing a (bulletproof) vest" to guard against White House attacks, he says, and warns that the Democrats will sic goons on him to break his kneecaps. Some talk-show hosts see the risk of going too far. **Bill O'Reilly**, the top-rated talker on Fox News, interviewed Stewart Rhodes of the Oath Keepers in February and treated him coolly. After the interview O'Reilly said to his audience, "We have a system to uphold the Constitution. It is called the judicial branch. The Supreme Court. The Oath Keepers are not the system." Wise words, but it's a sign of disturbing times that O'Reilly felt required to say them.

With Michael Isikoff, Mark Hosenball, Katie Connolly, and Daniel Stone in Washington

(c) 2010, Newsweek Inc. All rights reserved.

truthout [home page](#)

Oath Keepers [home page](#)

SPLC: Rage on the Right [blog link](#) MMr

Let Us Finally Gift The Life That Was Gifted To Us !! [blog link](#) MMr

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:41 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Riane Eisler: Roadmap to a New Economics

Roadmap to a New Economics: Beyond Capitalism and Socialism

By Riane Eisler, Tikkun [article link](#)

Posted on April 13, 2010, Printed on April 13, 2010

When thinking of a new economics, let's not think of stocks, bonds, derivatives, or other financial instruments. Let's think of children. Let's ask what kind of economic policies and practices are good for children. Let's ask what's needed so all children are healthy, get a good education, and are prepared to live good lives. More fundamentally, let's ask what kind of economic system helps, or prevents, children from realizing their great potentials for consciousness, empathy, caring, and creativity -- the capacities that make us fully human.

Once we address these questions, we can start designing the road map to the economic system we want and need: one that promotes not only human survival but also full human development.

We must design such a system, not only because it is the right thing to do, but because it is the economically sensible thing to do, particularly as we move into the postindustrial knowledge-information era where the most important capital is what some economists call "high-quality human capital." Indeed, Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen concurs that the aim of sound economic policy must be human capacity development.

This I agree with. But I want to add that for a truly new economic system, we need a broader definition of human capacity development than a purely economic one. Which brings us back to the children and to our human capacities for caring, empathy, consciousness, and creativity.

When children are the starting point for a new economic paradigm, the first step is to go beyond the tired debate of capitalism versus socialism and all the other old isms. Both capitalist and socialist theory ignore a fundamental truth: the real wealth of nations -- and the world -- consists of the contributions of people and nature.

Adam Smith and Karl Marx ignored the vital importance of nature's life-sustaining activities. For them, nature exists to be exploited, period. As for the life-sustaining activities of caring for people starting in childhood, they considered this merely "reproductive" labor, and not part of their "productive" economic equation.

In other words, their focus was on the market -- for Smith to extol it and for Marx to excoriate it. Neither included in his economic model the life-sustaining sectors, without which there would be no market economy: the household economy, the natural economy, and the volunteer economy.

The first step toward building a truly new economics is a full-spectrum economic model that includes these sectors and gives real visibility and value to the most essential human work: the work of caring for people and for our natural environment.

The move to this comprehensive economic model in turn requires understanding something else ignored in conventional economic discussions. This is that economic systems don't arise in a vacuum: they are influenced by, and in turn influence, the larger cultural system in which they are embedded.

The Failures of Capitalism and Socialism

In the wake of the global economic meltdown that began in 2008 has come an outcry against capitalism, especially against its latest stage of "neoliberalism" with its massive deregulation of powerful moneyed interests. Critics point not only to the havoc wreaked by deregulating banks and other financial institutions but also to the gargantuan size and power of multinational corporations; the widening gap between haves and have-nots, both between and within nations, caused by the globalization of "free markets"; and the decimation of our natural environment by irresponsible business practices. Some argue that capitalism must be replaced with socialism because historically capitalism has been unjust, violent, and exploitive of both people and nature.

But this argument reflects yet another old way of thinking that we must re-examine and transcend: classifying societies in terms of conventional categories such as socialist vs. capitalist, religious vs. secular, rightist vs. leftist, Eastern vs. Western, industrial vs. postindustrial, and so forth. None of these categories describes the totality of a society's beliefs and institutions — from the family, education, and religion, to politics and economics. Since these old categories focus only on particular aspects of a society, they are useless for understanding what a more equitable, sustainable, and caring system really looks like.

The social categories of partnership system and domination system reveal the core configurations of societies that support two very different kinds of relations. The domination system supports relations of top-down rankings: man over man, man over woman, race over race, religion over religion, nation over nation, and man over nature. The partnership system supports the relations we want and urgently need at this critical juncture of history: relations of mutual respect, accountability, and benefit.

If we re-examine the critique of capitalism as unjust, violent, and exploitive, from this perspective we see that, in reality, it is a critique of the structures, relationships, and values inherent in domination systems -- be they ancient or modern, Western or Eastern, feudal, monarchic, or totalitarian. Long before capitalist billionaires amassed huge fortunes, Egyptian pharaohs and Chinese emperors hoarded their nations' wealth. Indian potentates demanded tributes of silver and gold while lower castes lived in abject poverty. Middle Eastern warlords pillaged, plundered, and terrorized their people. European feudal lords killed their neighbors and oppressed their subjects.

A domination system of top-down rankings has also characterized the two large-scale modern applications of socialism: the former Soviet Union and China. Both turned out to be authoritarian and violent. And while they alleviated some economic disparities, they were hardly egalitarian.

In 1984, I visited the Soviet Union as one of two U.S. delegates with Nordic Women for Peace, which marched on both Washington, D.C., and Moscow to enlist support for nuclear disarmament. While ordinary Russians lived in overcrowded quarters, often with two families crammed into a small flat, we were put up in a luxury hotel's royal suite with gilded furniture and a grand piano in its foyer. And while most Russians lacked even the most basic consumer goods, we and the Soviet officials hosting us drank champagne and ate caviar and other delicacies.

Nor did these regimes protect our environment any more than capitalist nations did. In fact, their record is just as abysmal -- as evidenced by disasters such as Chernobyl and Lake Baikal in the USSR and the strip mining, air pollution, and other environmental calamities of China.

In short, the historic records of neither capitalism nor socialism hold real promise for a new, more sustainable and equitable economic system. Since capitalism has gained ascendancy, its failures are more evident. And it is true that, at this point, we need to leave the destructive aspects of capitalism behind.

This does not mean we should discard everything from capitalism and socialism. We need both markets and central planning. But to effectively address our problems, we have to go much deeper, to matters that conventional economic analyses and theories ignore.

To construct a more equitable and sustainable economic system, we have to take into account the larger social contexts out of which economics derive -- specifically, the degree to which these orient to either a partnership system or a domination system.

Economics, Societies, and Values

Economics is above all about values. So to change economics, we must also look at cultural beliefs about what is valuable or not valuable. And one of the distinctions between partnership and domination systems is what is and is not considered of economic value.

In both the Soviet Union and China, socialism was imposed in cultures that oriented closely to the configuration of the domination system. The core configuration of this system consists of top-down rankings in the family and state or tribe maintained by physical, psychological, and economic control; the ranking of the male half of humanity over the female half, and with this, the devaluation by both men and women of anything stereotypically considered feminine; and a high degree of culturally accepted abuse and violence — from child- and wife-beating to pogroms, terrorism, and chronic warfare.

A close orientation to this configuration can be found in societies that have little in common when looked at through the lenses of conventional social and economic categories such as communist or capitalist, Eastern or Western, secular or religious, and so forth. For example, viewed from the perspective of conventional categories, Hitler's Germany (a technologically advanced, Western, rightist society), the Taliban of Afghanistan and fundamentalist Iran (two Eastern, religious societies), and the would-be regime of the rightist-fundamentalist alliance in the United States seem totally different. But all have the same basic dominator configuration.

Neoliberalism, for example, was part of a regression to a domination system. It can best be understood as a means of maintaining top-down control. Although neoliberal rhetoric is about freedom, what this really means is freedom for those in control to do what they wish, free from government regulation. Neoliberal policies were designed to reconsolidate wealth and power in the hands of those on top, and its mantra of "trickle-down economics" conditioned people to accept the "traditional" order, under which those on the bottom have to content themselves with the crumbs dropping from their masters' opulent tables. The neoliberal promotion of "pre-emptive war" against Iraq also continued the traditional reliance on violence by dominant groups to impose their control. And the neoliberals' alliance with the so-called religious Right reinforced still another core component of domination systems: a "traditional" male-headed family where the ranking of one half of humanity over the other half is presented as normal and moral, and children learn early that it's very painful to question orders, no matter how unjust.

Moreover, with this ranking of male over female came another distinguishing feature of neoliberalism: its contempt for the "soft" or stereotypically "feminine," as in their vitriolic attacks on what they called the "nanny state." Accordingly, a key neoliberal requirement was that government programs designed to care for people, such as health care, child care, and aid to poor families, be defunded both in the United States and through "structural adjustment policies" in the "developing" world. In short, neoliberalism was really dominator economics.

The partnership system has a very different configuration. Its core elements are a democratic and egalitarian structure in both the family and state or tribe; equal partnership between women and men; and a low degree of violence, because it's not needed to maintain rigid rankings of domination.

No society is either a pure partnership or domination system. But the degree to which it is affects everything: from the society's guiding system of values to the construction of all its institutions -- from the family, education, and religion to politics and economics.

Economics and Caring

Nordic nations such as Sweden, Norway, and Finland are the contemporary countries that have moved most closely to the partnership side of the partnership-domination continuum. They have more equality in both the family and the state; a higher status of women (approximately 40 percent of their national legislators are female); and concerted efforts to leave behind traditions of violence (they pioneered the first peace studies and the first laws prohibiting physical discipline of children in families, and have a strong men's movement to disentangle "masculinity" from its equation with domination and violence).

Supported by their more partnership-oriented social configuration, these nations developed economic policies that combine positive elements of socialism and capitalism -- but go beyond both to an economics in which caring for people and nature is a top priority. These nations have government-supported child care, universal health care, stipends to help families care for children, elder care with dignity, and generous paid parental leave.

These more caring policies, in turn, made it possible for these nations to move from extreme poverty (famines in the early twentieth century) to societies with a generally high standard of living for all. Today these nations not only rank high in the United Nations annual Human Development Reports in measures of quality of life; they are also in the top tiers of the World Economic Forum's annual global competitiveness reports.

Nordic countries don't have the huge gaps between haves and have-nots characteristic of dominator-oriented nations. While they're not ideal societies, they have succeeded in providing a generally good living standard for all. They have low poverty and crime rates and high longevity rates. Their children score high on international tests. And studies show that workers in these nations are more satisfied and happier than people in countries such as the United States where the gross national product is higher.

Nordic nations also pioneered environmentally sound industrial approaches such as the Swedish "Natural Step." And some of the first experiments in industrial democracy came from Sweden and Norway, as did studies showing that a more participatory structure, where workers play a part in deciding such basic matters as how to organize tasks and what hours to work, can be extremely effective.

Moreover, Nordic nations have a long history of business cooperatives, jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprises that have included, as one of their guiding principles, concern for the community in which they operate. Their cooperatives have also been heavily involved in renewable energy projects. For example, many Swedish housing cooperatives are switching to alternative energy sources to help meet Sweden's goal of oil independence by 2015.

The Nordic nations' success has sometimes been attributed to their relatively small and homogeneous populations. But in smaller, even more homogeneous societies such as some oil-rich Middle-Eastern nations where absolute conformity to one religious sect and one tribal or royal head is demanded, we find large gaps between haves and have-nots and other inequities characteristic of the domination system.

So we have to look at other factors to understand why the Nordic nations moved out of poverty to develop a prosperous, more caring and equitable economic system in a relatively short time. Once we do, we see that what made these nations successful was their move toward the partnership configuration, which made it possible for them to become what they sometimes call themselves: "caring societies."

The core components of this configuration are mutually supporting and reinforcing. And one of its core components, in contrast to the domination system, is equality between the male and female halves of humanity. So women can, and do, occupy the highest political offices in the Nordic world. And this higher status of Nordic women has had important consequences for the values that guide Nordic policies.

In domination-oriented systems, men are socialized to distance themselves from women and anything stereotypically considered feminine. But in partnership-oriented cultures, men can give more value to caring, caregiving, nonviolence, and other traits and activities deemed inappropriate for men in dominator societies because they're associated with "inferior" femininity. So, along with the higher status of Nordic women, many men and women back more caring policies -- policies that give value and visibility to the work of caring for people and nature.

With the ascendancy of neoliberalism and the globalization of unregulated capitalism, over the last decades of the twentieth century Nordic nations too began to move somewhat toward more privatization. Nonetheless, they have been able to maintain most of their caring policies and hence their high rankings in international surveys of quality of life -- ranging from infant mortality rates (where the United States by contrast fell behind every industrialized nation and even behind poor ones like Cuba) to human rights and environmental ratings.

The basic reason is that these nations continue their massive investment of resources in caring for people and nature. Indeed, these nations contribute a larger percentage of their gross domestic product than other developed nations to caring international programs: programs working for fair economic development, environmental protection, and human rights.

Making the Invisible Visible

All this takes us back to where we started: the need to restructure economic systems in ways that go beyond the old capitalism vs. socialism debate. To effectively address our growing economic, social, and environmental problems, we need a new economics. We need a system that leaves behind the dominator elements of capitalism and socialism, preserves their partnership elements, and is governed by economic structures, policies, and practices that give visibility and real value to caring for ourselves, others, and our Mother Earth.

A first step is recognizing that the exclusion of caring and caregiving from mainstream economic theory and practice has caused enormous, and unnecessary, human suffering. Indeed, the systemic devaluation of the activities that contribute the most to human welfare and development lies behind a kind of economic insanity that is reflected in, and perpetuated by, conventional indicators of productivity such as GDP (gross domestic product) and GNP (gross national product).

These measures of "economic health" actually place activities that harm life (like selling cigarettes) and the profits derived from those activities (like the medical and funeral costs that result from smoking-related illnesses and deaths) on the plus side. Yet they give absolutely no value to the life-sustaining activities of both the household economy and the natural economy. So an old stand of trees is included in GDP only when it's cut down -- whereas the fact that we need trees to breathe is ignored. Similarly, the caring and caregiving work performed in households is given no value whatsoever, and economists speak of parents who do not hold outside jobs as "economically inactive" -- even though they often work from dawn to late at night.

Some people will say that this household work -- without which there would be no workforce -- cannot be quantified. But the reality is that it is already being quantified. Thanks to the activism of women's organizations worldwide, many nations now have "satellite" accounts that quantify the value of the work of caring for people and keeping healthy home environments that has traditionally been considered "women's work." For instance, a Swiss government report shows that if the unpaid "caring" household work were included, it would make up 70 percent of the reported Swiss GDP! Yet none of this information is found in conventional economic treatises -- be they capitalist or socialist.

The devaluation of this work is further reflected in the fact that, in the market economy, professions that involve caregiving are paid far less than those that do not.

So in the United States, people think nothing of paying plumbers, the people to whom we entrust our pipes, \$50 to \$100 per hour. But child care workers, the people to whom we entrust our children, according to the U.S. Department of Labor are paid an average of \$10 an hour, with no benefits. And we demand that plumbers have some training, but not that all child care workers have training.

This is not logical. It's pathological. But to understand, and change, this distorted system of values -- and to effectively address seemingly intractable problems such as poverty and hunger -- we again have to look at matters that are only visible once we recognize the configurations of the partnership system and the domination system.

Economic Policy, Poverty, and the Hidden System of Gendered Values

Many people, including politicians, think it's OK to have big government deficits to fund prisons, weapons, and wars -- all stereotypically associated with men and "real masculinity." But when it comes to funding caring for people -- for child care, health care, early childhood education, and other such expenditures -- they say there's not enough money.

If we look back just a few hundred years, we see this devaluation of the "feminine" in stark relief. At that time, Western culture still looked like some of the most repressive societies do today. The norm was an authoritarian structure in both the family and the state. Wars and religious persecutions were chronic. And women and anything associated with them were so devalued that some theologians seriously doubted that women have immortal souls.

There has obviously, since then, been movement toward the partnership system -- albeit against enormous resistance and periodic regressions. But the gendered system of valuations we inherited is still extremely resistant to change -- so much so

that when men embrace traits considered "soft" or "feminine" they are tarred with derisive terms such as "effeminate" and "sissy." Another symptom of this devaluation of women and anything associated with them is that discrimination against the female half of humanity is still generally seen as "just a women's issue" — to be addressed after more important problems are solved.

So while politicians often say their goal is ending, or at least decreasing, poverty and hunger, they hardly ever mention a staggering statistic: women represent 70 percent of those in our world who live in absolute poverty, which means starvation or near starvation. Also ignored in conventional discussions of poverty is that globally, women earn an average of two-thirds to three-fourths as much as men for the same work in the market economy and that most of the work women do in families -- including child care, health and elder care, housekeeping, cooking, collecting firewood, drawing and carrying water, and subsistence farming -- is not remunerated.

This is by no means to say that only women suffer economically from our domination heritage. Men also suffer, and this is particularly true of the men at the bottom of the domination pyramid. Yet women are still the most oppressed, the "slaves of the slaves," as John Lennon wrote.

Even in the rich United States, woman-headed families are the lowest tier of the economic hierarchy. In addition, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the poverty rate of women over sixty-five is almost twice that of men over sixty-five.

The fact that worldwide poverty and hunger disproportionately affect women is neither accidental nor inevitable. It is the direct result of political and economic systems that still have a strong dominator stamp. For example, the fact that older women are so much more likely to live in poverty than older men, even in an affluent nation like the United States, is not only due to wage discrimination in the market economy; it is also largely due to the fact that these women are, or were for much of their lives, caregivers -- and this work is neither paid nor later rewarded through social security or pensions.

Again, this is not to say that economic inequities based on gender are more important than those based on class, race, or other factors. These inequalities are all inherent in domination systems. But a basic template for the division of humanity into "superiors" and "inferiors" that children in dominator families internalize early on is a male-superior/female-inferior model of our species. And this template can then be applied to ranking race over race, religion over religion, and so forth.

Economics through a New Lens

When societies move toward the partnership side of the partnership-domination continuum (and it's always a matter of degree), women and the "feminine" are not devalued. And this benefits not only women but also men and children of both genders.

We have empirical evidence of this -- although once again it is ignored in conventional economic and social analyses.

The study "Women, Men, and the Global Quality of Life," conducted by the Center for Partnership Studies, compared statistical measures on the status of women using measures of quality of life such as infant mortality, human rights ratings, and environmental ratings from eighty-nine nations. We found that in significant respects the status of women can be a better predictor of quality of life than can gross domestic product.

Other studies also verify this relationship between the status of women and a society's general quality of life. The World Values Survey is the largest international survey of attitudes and how they correlate with economic development and political structure. For the first time, in 2000 this survey focused attention on attitudes about gender. Based on data from 65 societies representing 80 percent of the world's population, it found a strong relationship between support for gender equality and a society's level of political rights, civil liberties, and quality of life.

There are many reasons for a correlation of the status of women with a higher or lower quality of life for all. One, of course, is that women make up half of any population. But the reasons go much deeper, to the still largely unrecognized and undiscussed dynamics of domination systems. Here are just two examples:

Dominator Male Preference:

In some world regions, the ranking of males over females is so ingrained that parents (both mothers and fathers) not only deny girls access to education and give them less health care but also often feed girls less than boys. These practices obviously have extremely adverse consequences for girls and women. But giving less food to girls and women also adversely impacts the development of boys.

It is well known that children of malnourished women are often born with poor health and below-par brain development. So this gender-based nutritional and health care discrimination robs all children, male or female, of their birthright: their potential for optimal development. This in turn affects children's and later adults' abilities to adapt to new conditions, tolerance of frustration, and propensity to use violence -- which in their turn impede solutions to chronic hunger, poverty, and armed conflict, and with this, chances for a more humane, prosperous, and peaceful world for all.

Dominator Intra-Household Resource Allocation:

The above is just one consequence of something else left out of conventional economic analyses: the patterns of intra-household resource allocation characteristic of domination systems.

There is empirical evidence across diverse cultures and income groups that women have a higher propensity than men to spend on goods that benefit children and enhance their capacities. How much higher this propensity is was shown by Duncan Thomas in his report "Intra-Household Resource Allocation." He found that in Brazil, \$1 in the hands of a Brazilian woman has the same effect on child survival as \$18 in the hands of a man. Similarly, Judith Bruce and Cynthia B. Lloyd found that in Guatemala an additional \$11.40 per month in a mother's hands would achieve the same weight gain in a young child as an additional \$166 earned by the father.

Of course, there are men even in rigidly male-dominated cultures who give primary importance to meeting their families' needs. Typically, however, men in these cultures are socialized to believe it's their prerogative to use their wages for non-family purposes, including drinking, smoking, and gambling, and that when women complain, they are nagging and controlling. As Dr. Anugerah Pekerti, chair of World Vision, Indonesia, notes, many fathers seem to have no problem putting their immediate desires above the survival needs of their children.

Yet traditional economic theories, capitalist and socialist, are based on the assumption that the male head of household will expend the resources he controls for the benefit of all family members. Not only that, development aid programs still allocate enormous funds to large-scale projects in which women have little or no say -- and from which poor women and children derive few if any benefits. Even microlending or "village loan" programs that largely target women generally provide only minimal amounts -- often at exorbitant interest rates. And the bulk of large bank loans go to businesses owned by male elites or to male "heads of household."

Indeed, it is well known that much of the humanitarian government aid from developed to developing nations winds up in the hands of elites who deposit it in Swiss banks, build mansions, and otherwise line their pockets with it. Even when funds go directly to the poor, these too often end up in the pockets of men who use them for themselves rather than for their families. The effect of this on the general quality of life is not hard to see.

I want to again emphasize that what I'm reporting is not intended to blame men for our world's economic ills. We're dealing with a system in which both women and men are socialized to accept the notion that one half of our species is put on earth to be served and the other half to serve, and that mothers, but not fathers, must subordinate their needs and desires to those of their families.

This economic double standard, and with it the subordination of the stereotypically feminine to the stereotypically masculine, not only hurts women; it hurts us all. It hurts men in a myriad ways -- from the psychological pain of having to disassociate themselves from the "feminine," including their own mothers, to the economic and political consequences of devaluing and subordinating women and anything associated with them.

Domination, Our Environment, and Technology

Even our environmental crisis is largely a symptom of the distorted values inherent in domination systems. We're often told that the scientific-industrial revolution that began to gain momentum in the eighteenth century is to blame for the havoc we're wreaking on our natural life-support systems. But the "conquest of nature" worldview goes back much further.

We've inherited an economics based on the premise that man is entitled to control both woman's and nature's life-sustaining activities. In Genesis 1:28 we read that man is to "subdue" the earth and have "dominion ... over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." In Genesis 3:16 we read that man is to rule over woman, who is to be his subordinate.

I want to emphasize that this notion of male control over nature and woman was not introduced in the Bible. We already find it millennia earlier. For example, the Babylonian Enuma Elish tells us that the war god Marduk created the world by dismembering the body of the Mother Goddess Tiamat. This myth superceded earlier myths about a Great Mother who created nature and humans as part of nature through her life-giving powers with a story where the violence of a male deity brings forth the world. It not only signals the beginning of a period when female deities, along with women and anything associated with them, were subordinated; it also signals a shift to a domination system in which masculinity is equated with domination and conquest -- be it of women or of nature.

Domination systems have always despoiled nature. This goes way back to a time of massive climate change when prehistoric herders created scarcities that, in turn, fostered relations based on domination.

Using a large computerized database correlating information on climate change over thousands of years with archaeological data, geographer James DeMeo mapped these changes in the great desert belt he calls Saharasia (extending roughly from North Africa through the Middle East into central Asia). He found that what was once a garden of plenty gradually became a barren, cruel land. But climate change was only part of the story. When the land grew drier, farming became impossible, so herding became the primary technology. And, as vegetation became ever sparser, human agency itself became a cause of desertification.

Trees were felled to open up more grazing land. As trees and plants disappeared, there was even less rain, as happens when forests are decimated to our day. As herds overgrazed more pastures, soils became even more barren.

In this ever harsher environment, habits of domination and exploitation became routine. Some groups began to fight others for access to grassland and water, and as men increasingly relied on brute force for a livelihood, women lost status and power. Gradually, raiding and killing spread from deserts to more fertile areas. The nomadic tribes of the wastelands began to encroach on the more fertile areas, first in occasional incursions and later as conquerors who imposed their rule.

As cultural historian Brian Griffiths notes, everything was now geared to conquest and control -- of women, "inferior" men, and the land. And this conquest mentality -- of nature, women, and other men -- continues to this day.

At our level of technological development, this ethos of domination threatens not just one region but our entire ecosystem. Already in 2005, the UN-sponsored Millennium Ecosystems Assessment reported that over the past fifty years human activity has depleted 60 percent of the world's grasslands, forests, farmlands, rivers, and lakes. Emissions from cars and power plants are responsible for higher temperatures that are melting polar ice so fast that glaciers on Greenland are slipping into the ocean twice as fast as they were just five years ago. Polar bears are drowning. And scientists warn that rising seas may engulf coastal cities in just a few decades.

Almost every day another study details the insanity of our present course. But the plunder of nature, now aided by powerful technologies that cause terrible harm in a matter of years, or even months and days, continues unabated.

Yet none of this is inevitable. It can be changed.

Endings and Beginnings

The mix of high technology and an ethos of domination is not sustainable. Therein lies the danger. But the upheavals and dislocations of our time also offer an opportunity for a fundamental social and economic shift.

It's not only that the old economic models -- both capitalist and socialist -- came out of the industrial era and we're rapidly moving into the postindustrial era. The current economic meltdown and the meltdown of the ice caps are not isolated events: both are symptoms of the domination system reaching its logical end.

We must build economic structures, rules, policies, and practices that support caring for ourselves, others, and nature in both the market and the nonmarket economic sectors. At the same time, we must accelerate the shift to partnership cultures and structures worldwide so that anything stereotypically considered "soft" or "feminine" -- such as caring and caregiving -- is no longer devalued.

Market rules -- both locally and globally -- must be changed to reward caring business practices and penalize uncaring ones. To make these changes we must show that this benefits not only people and nature but also business.

Hundreds of studies show the cost-effectiveness of supporting and rewarding caring in the market economy. To give just one example, companies that regularly appear on the Working Mothers or Fortune 500 lists of the best companies to work for -- that is, companies with good health care, child care, flextime, parental leave, and other caring policies -- have a higher return to investors.

On the national policy level, we already saw how in Nordic nations, caring policies played a major role in their move from dire poverty to a high quality of life for all. Other examples abound, such as reports of the enormous financial benefits that have come from investing in parenting education and assistance (as shown by the Canadian Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program) and investing in high-quality early childhood education (as shown by follow-up studies of the U.S. Abecedarian Project).

There are many ways of funding this investment in our world's human infrastructure -- which should be amortized over a period of years, as is done for investments in material infrastructure, such as machines and buildings. One way is to shift funding from the heavy investment in weapons and wars characteristic of domination systems. Another is through the savings a society gains when it no longer has to pay the immense costs of not investing in caring and caregiving: the huge expenditures of taxpayer money on crime, courts, prisons, lost human potential, and environmental damage. Taxes on financial speculation and other harmful activities, such as making and selling junk food, can also fund investment in caring for people and our natural habitat.

Good care for children will ensure we have the flexible, innovative, and caring people needed for the postindustrial workforce. Both psychology and neuroscience show that whether these capacities develop largely hinges on the quality of care children receive.

Educating and remunerating people for caregiving will help close the "caring gap" -- the worldwide lack of care for children, the elderly, and the sick and infirm. And it will eventually lead to a redefinition of "productivity" that gives visibility and value to what really makes us healthy and happy -- and in the bargain leads to economic prosperity and ecological sustainability.

Economic systems are human creations. They can be changed. We must build a political movement to pressure policymakers to make these changes — or change the policymakers. We must see to it that our world's governments make a massive investment in parenting education, paid parental leave, and innovative measures such as tax credits for caregivers and social security credit for the first years of caring for a child (as is already done in Norway).

We can all be leaders in building a social and economic system that really meets human needs -- not only our material ones but also our emotional and spiritual ones. The sidebar next to this article describes the six foundations needed for a truly

new economic system. If we join together, we can build these foundations and create a future in which all children can realize their great potentials for consciousness, empathy, caring, and creativity -- the capacities that make us fully human.

Riane Eisler is the author of *The Real Wealth of Nations: Creating a Caring Economics* and *The Chalice and The Blade: Our History, Our Future*, and President of the [Center for Partnership Studies](#).

© 2010 Tikkun All rights reserved.

AlterNet [home page](#)

Tikkun [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:32 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Monday, April 12, 2010

SurvivalBlog: Five Stages Of Social Collapse

How to Do More than Survive at the Different Stages of Societal Collapse

by Tamara W. [article link](#) [article link](#)

Thursday, April 8, 2010 SurvivalBlog

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

Dmitry Orlov wrote about the five stages of social collapse. In descending order, these stages are: financial, commercial, political, social and - last and certainly worst - cultural. In the face of a collapsing society, what can be done to lessen the immediate and local impact at each of these stages? How can we lessen the personal impact of societal collapse? **Preparedness is key** in any disaster, and societal collapse is certainly a disaster on epic scale. The question then is what to do at each stage of societal collapse.

Here is how to do more than survive at each stage of societal collapse, and what one can do to prepare in advance of each stage.

1. In the financial collapse, currency hyper-inflates or becomes unavailable. If currency becomes unavailable, either due to hoarding or restrictions on allowed cash withdrawals, money becomes scarce. If currency hyper-inflates, the theoretical cost of paying off a loan frequently shrinks. However, in hyperinflation, wages rarely keep up with the devaluation of currency, leaving workers with a shrinking plate on which to pay their existing bills. It is preferable to pay off all debts before this stage, so that lack of money in either scenario does not make it impossible to pay payments and lead to your physical possessions being repossessed. When cash is scarce or worthless, crime frequently goes up. Don't look like a target. Where possible, lower your profile now so that collective memory will also change; "he used to have all the flashy stuff that's gone, probably trying to look poor."

What to do before then: Own your home and property. If applicable, own your business location. If possible, own usable real estate that can be rented out to others in exchange for barter. For example, own outright a plot of land near high density homes that can be rented for gardening in exchange for produce.

2. In commercial collapse, there is a business slow down. Lack of currency or lack of value of cash on hand causes business slow down. Inability to buy goods or pay for their transport creates shortages. To manage this stage, have your own supply source. For example, have a garden for food so that empty shelves at the grocery store do not leave your family hungry. Have a stand of trees that can be harvested for wood so that propane gas lines don't leave you cold at night.

What to do before then: If possible, become a distributor or seller of these necessities, ensuring your own supply as well. However, this requires building up the business connections and likely getting into the business before a collapse so that you have an established customer base. This requires inventory, storage and protection for inventory, and the means to purchase these products now, but it can create a means of livelihood for the long term.

3. In a political collapse, public order becomes chaos. Police don't bother policing the streets unless it is their own. Judges don't see many cases unless it is for the ruling elite or to silence an angry mob outside. In this situation, it is essential to have at least one means of personal protection. If calling 911 is jokingly called government sponsored dial a prayer when we have a functioning society, what will it be called when the police rarely bother to come at all? Own at least one gun, and know how to use it. Teach your neighbors how to use a gun properly, so that their response to a home invasion is less likely to result in stray bullets hitting your home or even yourself. Consider having a family member join private security services. Or set one up yourself.

What to do before then: Organize a local neighborhood watch that actually packs heat, so that violent crimes by armed criminals can be dealt with immediately. An existing organized group can easily ramp up its number of patrols and extend its range. An active group also benefits from knowing the people and the area, thus will not be mistaken for a new gang as it starts to patrol or make contact.

4. In social collapse, the national institutions start to fail. Colleges close. Landmarks shut down. Communication across even intermediate distances becomes difficult and unreliable. In this stage of collapse, local institutions are the only ones left standing - if they are helped to stand. Bolster local institutions like churches and temples by volunteering. Keep food banks open by donating food - thus preventing begging on the streets. When state schools close, support private schools to fill in the gap. At this stage of collapse, strong local social connections become even more important.

What to do before then: Know teachers, lawyers, and supportive personnel that are within a safe commuting distance and who can be there when you need them. If possible, organize home-schooling groups now that can evolve into private schools for children within walking distance. Set up mediation center now with trained mediators and retired judges that can evolve into a local community court when the municipality ceases doing its job or becomes too corrupt to be trusted.

5. In cultural collapse, local institutions fall. This is best described as total anarchy or social collapse. When the Maya abandoned their cities, they were in cultural collapse. When the local institutions fail, the only fall back is family and clan. There is no prospering at this stage, only survival and hope for more than survival later. If society is in a stage of collapse, it is essential to take the right actions long before it falls this far. Move close to family, such as within walking distance.

What do to now: Repair family ties. If the world falls apart and one can only rely upon family, have strong relationships so that they are willing to support you. Build up family members into those you can rely upon Encourage financial responsibility among family members, so that they do not need desperate help when money is in short supply. Encourage strong personal responsibility in the next generation, so that they can be there to rely upon instead of needing help. Help them break addictions now, because that will only be an even greater temptation when the world seems to be falling apart. If your younger family members are looking for mates, encourage them to select spouses who are compatible and in for the long haul.

You may want to consider networking now nationally or internationally with like minded individuals, so that you could join a rising culture that is still strong. Whether it immigrating abroad to another nation or building anew regionally will depend on circumstances of the time and place. However, having the social infrastructure and connections in place now are essential to avoiding becoming a refugee. Whether it is knowing someone you could move in with after your home is destroyed in a disaster or after forced relocation, having family or friends that are like family can give you a destination ready and able to take you in. Also have the means in your own home, such as space and supplies, to help incoming relatives and close friends, in case you are the refuge to which they flee.

James Wesley Rawles
SurvivalBlog [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Helena Norberg-Hodge: Social Costs of Globalization](#)

Globalization threatens to spread a culture of consumerism that is both socially and environmentally destructive. With those in the industrialized world using ten times their share of the earth's resources, it is absurd to promise that everyone can do the same, argues Helena Norberg-Hodge.

Social Costs of Globalization

by Helena Norberg-Hodge [article link](#) [article link](#)

7th April 2010 - Published by Countercurrents.org

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

Implicit in all the rhetoric our leaders spout about globalisation is the idea that the rest of the world should eventually be brought up to the standard of living of the West, and America in particular. **Read between the lines of the 'sustainable development' argument and you'll find the American Dream lurking: it is globalisation's touchstone, its apparent endpoint.**

But if this is the direction globalisation is taking us, it is worth examining where America itself is headed. A good way to do so is to take a hard look at **America's children**, since so many features of the global monoculture have been in place their whole lives. They are like canaries in a mineshaft: if the American Dream isn't working for them, why should anyone, anywhere, believe it would work better for their own children?

As it turns out, children in the US are far from "confident, self-reliant, tolerant, generous, and future-oriented". One indication of this is that an estimated five million of them are being given at least one psychiatric drug. This disturbing trend is growing rapidly. The number of children ages 2-4 for whom stimulant and anti-depressant drugs have been prescribed increased 50 percent between 1991 and 1995. In the following four years, prescriptions for anti-depression drugs rose even more steeply, climbing 151 percent for children in the 7-12 age group, and 580 percent for children six and under.

For most people in the less 'developed' world it is impossible to imagine 2-year old children so depressed that they need prescription drugs. Equally hard to fathom are many other symptoms of social breakdown among America's children. Eating disorders, for example. The number of pre-pubescent children with eating disorders is on the rise, with girls as young as four showing signs of anorexia. Cosmetic surgery, another symptom of insecurity and poor self-image, is also on the increase, with the number of teen-age girls having their breasts augmented quadrupling, and liposuction procedures tripling, in just the past five years.

What about violence, which is a more common symptom of breakdown for boys? Consider the fact that there have been at least 25 school shootings in the US since 1996, claiming the lives of 35 students. The youngest killer? A six-year old boy.

What has made America's children so insecure and troubled? A number of causes are surely involved, all of which can be traced back to the global economy. As corporations scour the world for bigger subsidies and lower costs, jobs move with

them, and families as well: the typical American moves eleven times during their life, constantly severing connections between relatives, neighbours and friends.

Within almost every family, the economic pressures on parents systematically rob them of time with even their own children. Americans put in longer hours at work than people in any other industrialised country, and the trend is ever upward: Americans work the equivalent of one week longer per year than they did a decade ago, more than five weeks longer than in 1970. As a consequence more and more young children are relegated to the care of strangers in crowded day-care centres. Older children are often left in the company of violent video games or the corporate sponsors of their favourite television shows. Time spent in nature - fundamentally important to our psychological well being - is increasingly rare.

Globalisation and the spreading consumer culture thus work to displace the flesh-and-blood role models - parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends and neighbours - that children once looked up to, replacing them with media and advertising images: rakish movie and rock stars, steroid-enhanced athletes and airbrushed supermodels. Children who strive to emulate these manufactured 'perfect' idols are left feeling insecure and inadequate.

In this sense, what is often seen as American 'culture' is not a product of the American people. It is, in fact, an artificial consumer culture being foisted on people through advertising and the media. This consumer culture is fundamentally different from all those cultures which for millennia were shaped by climate and topography - by a dialogue between humans and the natural world. **This is a new phenomenon, something that has never happened before: a culture determined by technological and economic forces, rather than human and ecological needs.** It is not surprising that American children, many of whom seem to 'have everything', are so unhappy: like their parents, their teachers at school and even their television heroes, they have been put on a treadmill that is ever more stressful and competitive, ever more meaningless and lonely.

America's children are among the first victims of a culture shaped by commercial interests and media moguls, and an increasing number of Americans are waking up to this fact. There is a growing trend towards turning the television off, towards consciously seeking nature and community instead. These are incredibly important and hopeful signs.

Nevertheless, as the globalisation juggernaut steamrolls along the number of victims worldwide is growing exponentially. Today millions of children from Mongolia to Patagonia are targets of a fanatical and fundamentalist campaign to bring them into the consumer culture. The cost is massive in terms of self-rejection, psychological breakdown and violence. These children are just as vulnerable as their American counterparts to the sales pitches of corporate advertisers, who tell them that this brand of make-up will inch them closer to perfection, or that wearing that brand of sneakers will make them more like their sports hero. Sales of dangerous bleach for skin and hair, and contact lenses advertised as 'the colour of eyes you wish you were born with', are skyrocketing in the South.

This psychological impoverishment is accompanied by a massive rise in material poverty. Even in America a decade-long economic 'boom' could not lift an estimated 35 million people above the poverty line. And what about the millions drawn into rapidly growing Third World slums every year, with little hope of escape? What about the factory workers in sweatshops and maquiladoras, and the small farmers in their dying rural communities? What about the indigenous peoples being driven to extinction, and those whose ways of life are so threatened by the forces of globalisation that they turn to fundamentalism, even terrorism?

The central hope of the American Dream - that our children will have a better life than we do - seems to have vanished. Many people, in fact, no longer believe that our children really have any future at all.

Nonetheless policymakers insist that globalisation is bringing a better world for everyone. How can there be such a gap between the cheerleading rhetoric and the lives of real people? Part of the disconnect results from the way globalisation's promoters measure 'progress'. It is all too easy to compare America's consumer cornucopia today with what was available 50 or 150 years ago. More often, the baseline from which comparisons are made is rooted in the Dickensian period of the early industrial revolution, when exploitation and deprivation, pollution and squalor were rampant. From this starting point, our child-labour laws and 40-hour workweek look like real progress.

Similarly, the baseline in the Third World is the immediate post-colonial period, with its uprooted cultures, poverty, over-population and political instability. Based on the misery of these starting points, political leaders can argue that our technologies and our economic system have brought a far better world into being, and that globalisation will bring benefits to the "wretched, servile, fatalistic and intolerant human beings" in the remaining 'undeveloped' parts of the world.

In reality, however, globalisation is a continuation of a broad process that started with the age of conquest and colonialism in the South and the Enclosures and the Industrial Revolution in the North; from then on a single culture and economic system has relentlessly expanded, taking over other cultures, other peoples' resources and labour. Far from delivering us from poverty, the globalising industrial system continually creates it.

Today, on the eve of the Johannesburg summit, it is vital that we connect growing physical and emotional poverty - whether inside or outside the US - to the whole industrial system, to a history that included robbing people from all over the world of their natural resources, labour and self-respect. **Our leaders simply fail to connect the dots between 'progress' and poverty.**

Erasing other cultures, replacing them with an artificial culture created by corporations and the media can only lead to an increase in social breakdown and poverty. Even in the narrowest economic terms, globalisation means continuing to rob, rather than enrich, the majority. In 1960, the income of the richest fifth of the global population was 30 times that of the poorest fifth; by 1997 the gap more than doubled, with the richest fifth receiving 74 times more than the poorest fifth. This is globalisation at work.

By forcing everyone on the planet to rely on the same, narrow range of resources, globalisation is creating artificial scarcity, thereby adding to real poverty and exacerbating violent conflict. Contrary to the often-repeated claim that global trade is making conflict less likely, a recent World Bank study has found that countries whose economies are highly specialised - precisely what the free traders prescribe - are 20 times more likely to find themselves in civil war than countries whose economies are diversified.

With those in the industrialised world using ten times their share of the earth's resources, it is a criminal hoax to promise that everyone in the 'undeveloped' world can do the same. The global spread of this fantasy has been profoundly destructive to people's ability to survive in their own cultures, in their own place on the earth. It has even been destructive to its most privileged beneficiaries. America's children are telling us we need a very different dream - one shaped by culture and nature, not by corporate greed.

Helena Norberg-Hodge is founder and director of the International Society for Ecology and Culture (ISEC).

CounterCurrents [home page](#)

Share The Earth's Resources [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:13 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Sunday, April 11, 2010

Tony Judt: Ill Fares the Land

Ill Fares the Land

by Tony Judt [article link](#) [article link](#)

Published on Saturday, April 10, 2010 by The New York Review of Books

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

Something is profoundly wrong with the way we live today. For thirty years we have made a virtue out of the pursuit of material self-interest: indeed, this very pursuit now constitutes whatever remains of our sense of collective purpose. We know what things cost but have no idea what they are worth. We no longer ask of a judicial ruling or a legislative act: Is it good? Is it fair? Is it just? Is it right? Will it help bring about a better society or a better world? Those used to be the political questions, even if they invited no easy answers. We must learn once again to pose them.

The materialistic and selfish quality of contemporary life is not inherent in the human condition. Much of what appears "natural" today dates from the 1980s: the obsession with wealth creation, the cult of privatization and the private sector, the growing disparities of rich and poor. And above all, the rhetoric that accompanies these: uncritical admiration for unfettered markets, disdain for the public sector, the delusion of endless growth.

We cannot go on living like this. The little crash of 2008 was a reminder that unregulated capitalism is its own worst enemy: sooner or later it must fall prey to its own excesses and turn again to the state for rescue. But if we do no more than pick up the pieces and carry on as before, we can look forward to greater upheavals in years to come.

And yet we seem unable to conceive of alternatives. This too is something new. Until quite recently, public life in liberal societies was conducted in the shadow of a debate between defenders of "capitalism" and its critics: usually identified with one or another form of "socialism." By the 1970s this debate had lost much of its meaning for both sides; all the same, the "left-right" distinction served a useful purpose. It provided a peg on which to hang critical commentary about contemporary affairs.

On the left, Marxism was attractive to generations of young people if only because it offered a way to take one's distance from the status quo. Much the same was true of classical conservatism: a well-grounded distaste for over-hasty change gave a home to those reluctant to abandon long-established routines. Today, neither left nor right can find their footing.

For thirty years students have been complaining to me that "it was easy for you": your generation had ideals and ideas, you believed in something, you were able to change things. "We" (the children of the Eighties, the Nineties, the "Aughts") have nothing. In many respects my students are right. It was easy for us—just as it was easy, at least in this sense, for the generations who came before us. The last time a cohort of young people expressed comparable frustration at the emptiness of their lives and the dispiriting purposelessness of their world was in the 1920s: it is not by chance that historians speak of a "lost generation."

If young people today are at a loss, it is not for want of targets. Any conversation with students or schoolchildren will produce a startling checklist of anxieties. Indeed, the rising generation is acutely worried about the world it is to inherit. But accompanying these fears there is a general sentiment of frustration: "we" know something is wrong and there are many things we don't like. But what can we believe in? What should we do?

This is an ironic reversal of the attitudes of an earlier age. Back in the era of self-assured radical dogma, young people were far from uncertain. The characteristic tone of the 1960s was that of overweening confidence: we knew just how to fix the world. It was this note of unmerited arrogance that partly accounts for the reactionary backlash that followed; if the left is to recover its fortunes, some modesty will be in order. All the same, you must be able to name a problem if you wish to solve it.

I wrote my book [Ill Fares the Land](#) for young people on both sides of the Atlantic. American readers may be struck by the frequent references to **social democracy**. Here in the United States, such references are uncommon. When journalists and commentators advocate public expenditure on social objectives, they are more likely to describe themselves-and be described by their critics-as "liberals." But this is confusing. "Liberal" is a venerable and respectable label and we should all be proud to wear it. But like a well-designed outer coat, it conceals more than it displays.

A liberal is someone who opposes interference in the affairs of others: who is tolerant of dissenting attitudes and unconventional behavior. Liberals have historically favored keeping other people out of our lives, leaving individuals the maximum space in which to live and flourish as they choose. In their extreme form, such attitudes are associated today with self-styled "libertarians," but the term is largely redundant. Most genuine liberals remain disposed to leave other people alone.

Social democrats, on the other hand, are something of a hybrid. They share with liberals a commitment to cultural and religious tolerance. But in public policy social democrats believe in the possibility and virtue of collective action for the collective good. Like most liberals, social democrats favor progressive taxation in order to pay for public services and other social goods that individuals cannot provide themselves; but whereas many liberals might see such taxation or public provision as a necessary evil, a social democratic vision of the good society entails from the outset a greater role for the state and the public sector.

Understandably, social democracy is a hard sell in the United States. One of my goals is to suggest that government can play an enhanced role in our lives without threatening our liberties-and to argue that, since the state is going to be with us for the foreseeable future, we would do well to think about what sort of a state we want. In any case, much that was best in American legislation and social policy over the course of the twentieth century-and that we are now urged to dismantle in the name of efficiency and "less government"-corresponds in practice to what Europeans have called "social democracy." Our problem is not what to do; it is how to talk about it.

The European dilemma is somewhat different. Many European countries have long practiced something resembling social democracy: but they have forgotten how to preach it. Social democrats today are defensive and apologetic. Critics who claim that the European model is too expensive or economically inefficient have been allowed to pass unchallenged. And yet, the welfare state is as popular as ever with its beneficiaries: nowhere in Europe is there a constituency for abolishing public health services, ending free or subsidized education, or reducing public provision of transport and other essential services.

I want to challenge conventional wisdom on both sides of the Atlantic. To be sure, the target has softened considerably. In the early years of this century, the "Washington consensus" held the field. Everywhere you went there was an economist or "expert" expounding the virtues of deregulation, the minimal state, and low taxation. Anything, it seemed, that the public sector could do, private individuals could do better.

The Washington doctrine was everywhere greeted by ideological cheerleaders: from the profiteers of the "Irish miracle" (the property-bubble boom of the "Celtic Tiger") to the doctrinaire ultra-capitalists of former Communist Europe. Even "old Europeans" were swept up in the wake. The EU's free-market project (the so-called "Lisbon agenda"); the enthusiastic privatization plans of the French and German governments: all bore witness to what its French critics described as the new "pensée unique."

Today there has been a partial awakening. To avert national bankruptcies and wholesale banking collapse, governments and central bankers have performed remarkable policy reversals, liberally dispersing public money in pursuit of economic stability and taking failed companies into public control without a second thought. A striking number of free-market economists, worshipers at the feet of Milton Friedman and his Chicago colleagues, have lined up to don sackcloth and ashes and swear allegiance to the memory of John Maynard Keynes.

This is all very gratifying. But it hardly constitutes an intellectual revolution. Quite the contrary: as the response of the Obama administration suggests, **the reversion to Keynesian economics is but a tactical retreat**. Much the same may be said of New Labour, as committed as ever to the private sector in general and the London financial markets in particular. To

be sure, one effect of the crisis has been to dampen the ardor of continental Europeans for the "Anglo-American model"; but the chief beneficiaries have been those same center-right parties once so keen to emulate Washington.

In short, the practical need for strong states and interventionist governments is beyond dispute. But no one is "re-thinking" the state. There remains a marked reluctance to defend the public sector on grounds of collective interest or principle. It is striking that in a series of European elections following the financial meltdown, social democratic parties consistently did badly; notwithstanding the collapse of the market, they proved conspicuously unable to rise to the occasion.

If it is to be taken seriously again, the left must find its voice. There is much to be angry about: growing inequalities of wealth and opportunity; injustices of class and caste; economic exploitation at home and abroad; corruption and money and privilege occluding the arteries of democracy. But it will no longer suffice to identify the shortcomings of "the system" and then retreat, Pilate-like, indifferent to consequences. The irresponsible rhetorical grandstanding of decades past did not serve the left well.

We have entered an age of insecurity-economic insecurity, physical insecurity, political insecurity. The fact that we are largely unaware of this is small comfort: few in 1914 predicted the utter collapse of their world and the economic and political catastrophes that followed. **Insecurity breeds fear. And fear-fear of change, fear of decline, fear of strangers and an unfamiliar world-is corroding the trust and interdependence on which civil societies rest.**

All change is disruptive. We have seen that the specter of terrorism is enough to cast stable democracies into turmoil. Climate change will have even more dramatic consequences. Men and women will be thrown back upon the resources of the state. They will look to their political leaders and representatives to protect them: open societies will once again be urged to close in upon themselves, sacrificing freedom for "security." **The choice will no longer be between the state and the market, but between two sorts of state. It is thus incumbent upon us to reconceive the role of government. If we do not, others will.**

The Way We Live Now

All around us, even in a recession, we see a level of individual wealth unequaled since the early years of the twentieth century. Conspicuous consumption of redundant consumer goods-houses, jewelry, cars, clothing, tech toys-has greatly expanded over the past generation. In the US, the UK, and a handful of other countries, financial transactions have largely displaced the production of goods or services as the source of private fortunes, distorting the value we place upon different kinds of economic activity. The wealthy, like the poor, have always been with us. But relative to everyone else, they are today wealthier and more conspicuous than at any time in living memory. Private privilege is easy to understand and describe. It is rather harder to convey the depths of public squalor into which we have fallen.

Private Affluence, Public Squalor

No society can surely be flourishing and happy, of which the far greater part of the members are poor and miserable.
-Adam Smith

Poverty is an abstraction, even for the poor. But the symptoms of collective impoverishment are all about us. Broken highways, bankrupt cities, collapsing bridges, failed schools, the unemployed, the underpaid, and the uninsured: all suggest a collective failure of will. These shortcomings are so endemic that we no longer know how to talk about what is wrong, much less set about repairing it. And yet something is seriously amiss. **Even as the US budgets tens of billions of dollars on a futile military campaign in Afghanistan, we fret nervously at the implications of any increase in public spending on social services or infrastructure.**

To understand the depths to which we have fallen, we must first appreciate the scale of the changes that have overtaken us. From the late nineteenth century until the 1970s, the advanced societies of the West were all becoming less unequal. Thanks to progressive taxation, government subsidies for the poor, the provision of social services, and guarantees against acute misfortune, modern democracies were shedding extremes of wealth and poverty.

To be sure, great differences remained. The essentially egalitarian countries of Scandinavia and the considerably more diverse societies of southern Europe remained distinctive; and the English-speaking lands of the Atlantic world and the British Empire continued to reflect long-standing class distinctions. But each in its own way was affected by the growing intolerance of immoderate inequality, initiating public provision to compensate for private inadequacy.

Over the past thirty years we have thrown all this away. To be sure, "we" varies with country. The greatest extremes of private privilege and public indifference have resurfaced in the US and the UK: epicenters of enthusiasm for deregulated market capitalism. Although countries as far apart as New Zealand and Denmark, France and Brazil have expressed periodic interest in deregulation, none has matched Britain or the United States in their unwavering thirty-year commitment to the unraveling of decades of social legislation and economic oversight.

In 2005, 21.2 percent of US national income accrued to just 1 percent of earners. Contrast 1968, when the CEO of General Motors took home, in pay and benefits, about sixty-six times the amount paid to a typical GM worker. Today the CEO of Wal-Mart earns nine hundred times the wages of his average employee. Indeed, the wealth of the Wal-Mart founder's family in 2005 was estimated at about the same (\$90 billion) as that of the bottom 40 percent of the US population: 120 million people.

The UK too is now more unequal-in incomes, wealth, health, education, and life chances-than at any time since the 1920s. There are more poor children in the UK than in any other country of the European Union. Since 1973, inequality in take-home pay increased more in the UK than anywhere except the US. Most of the new jobs created in Britain in the years 1977-2007 were at either the very high or the very low end of the pay scale.

The consequences are clear. There has been a collapse in intergenerational mobility: in contrast to their parents and grandparents, children today in the UK as in the US have very little expectation of improving upon the condition into which they were born. The poor stay poor. (See Figures 1 and 2.) **Economic disadvantage for the overwhelming majority translates into ill health, missed educational opportunity, and-increasingly-the familiar symptoms of depression: alcoholism, obesity, gambling, and minor criminality. The unemployed or underemployed lose such skills as they have acquired and become chronically superfluous to the economy. Anxiety and stress, not to mention illness and early death, frequently follow.**

Income disparity exacerbates the problems. Thus the incidence of mental illness correlates closely to income in the US and the UK, whereas the two indices are quite unrelated in all continental European countries. Even trust, the faith we have in our fellow citizens, corresponds negatively with differences in income: between 1983 and 2001, mistrustfulness increased markedly in the US, the UK, and Ireland-three countries in which the dogma of unregulated individual self-interest was most assiduously applied to public policy. In no other country was a comparable increase in mutual mistrust to be found.

Even within individual countries, inequality plays a crucial role in shaping peoples' lives. In the United States, for example, your chances of living a long and healthy life closely track your income: residents of wealthy districts can expect to live longer and better. Young women in poorer states of the US are more likely to become pregnant in their teenage years-and their babies are less likely to survive-than their peers in wealthier states. In the same way, a child from a disfavored district has a higher chance of dropping out of high school than if his parents have a steady mid-range income and live in a prosperous part of the country. As for the children of the poor who remain in school: they will do worse, achieve lower scores, and obtain less fulfilling and lower-paid employment.

Inequality, then, is not just unattractive in itself; it clearly corresponds to pathological social problems that we cannot hope to address unless we attend to their underlying cause. There is a reason why infant mortality, life expectancy, criminality, the prison population, mental illness, unemployment, obesity, malnutrition, teenage pregnancy, illegal drug use, economic insecurity, personal indebtedness, and anxiety are so much more marked in the US and the UK than they are in continental Europe. (See Figures 3, 4, and 5.)

The wider the spread between the wealthy few and the impoverished many, the worse the social problems: a statement that appears to be true for rich and poor countries alike. What matters is not how affluent a country is but how unequal it is. Thus Sweden and Finland, two of the world's wealthiest countries by per capita income or GDP, have a

very narrow gap separating their richest from their poorest citizens-and they consistently lead the world in indices of measurable well-being. Conversely, the United States, despite its huge aggregate wealth, always comes low on such measures. We spend vast sums on health care, but life expectancy in the US remains below Bosnia and just above Albania. (See Figure 6.)

Inequality is corrosive. It rots societies from within. The impact of material differences takes a while to show up: but in due course competition for status and goods increases; people feel a growing sense of superiority (or inferiority) based on their possessions; prejudice toward those on the lower rungs of the social ladder hardens; crime spikes and the pathologies of social disadvantage become ever more marked. The legacy of unregulated wealth creation is bitter indeed.^[1]

As recently as the 1970s, the idea that the point of life was to get rich and that governments existed to facilitate this would have been ridiculed: not only by capitalism's traditional critics but also by many of its staunchest defenders. Relative indifference to wealth for its own sake was widespread in the postwar decades. In a survey of English schoolboys taken in 1949, it was discovered that the more intelligent the boy the more likely he was to choose an interesting career at a reasonable wage over a job that would merely pay well.^[2] Today's schoolchildren and college students can imagine little else but the search for a lucrative job.

How should we begin to make amends for raising a generation obsessed with the pursuit of material wealth and indifferent to so much else? Perhaps we might start by reminding ourselves and our children that it wasn't always thus. Thinking "economistically," as we have done now for thirty years, is not intrinsic to humans. There was a time when we ordered our lives differently.

-This essay is drawn from the opening chapter of Tony Judt's newly published book, [Ill Fares the Land](#) (Penguin).

Notes

^[1] The best recent statement of this argument comes in Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett, *The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger* (Bloomsbury Press, 2010). I am indebted to them for much of the material in this excerpt.

^[2] See T.H. Marshall and Tom Bottomore, *Citizenship and Social Class* (London: Pluto, 1992), p. 48.

© 2010 The New York Review of Books

Tony Judt directs the Remarque Institute at NYU and is the author of [Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945](#). His new book, [Ill Fares the Land](#), from which the piece in this issue is drawn, has just been published by Penguin Press. (April 2010)

CommonDreams [home page](#)

The New York Review of Books [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:34 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Saturday, April 10, 2010

Christopher Malone: The Tea Parties Bring Back Social Darwinism

The Tea Parties Bring Back Social Darwinism

By Christopher Malone, In These Times [article link](#)

Posted on April 10, 2010, Printed on April 10, 2010

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

One thing is certain about this fall's election: The field upon which American politics will play out is a populist one.

Populism has long been part of the American political tradition, dating at least to the political ascent of Andrew Jackson in the 1820s. Its appeal is deceptively simple. The details vary but populism's basic, urgent message remains the same: The game has been rigged by a small group of powerful people, and something must be done. Now.

What makes the current moment so rare is that both left- and right-wing populism have surfaced at the same time. Which side's message wins out may determine the trajectory of the next era in American political life.

With its recent national convention and the emergence of a de facto leader in Sarah Palin, the Tea Party movement has sent waves of populist energy through the American electorate. The movement's agenda is not yet fully formed, and it consists mostly of a vitriolic disdain for the Obama administration. Much work lies ahead in terms of developing its message, logic, strategy, tactics and constituency.

But if the Tea Party is a young movement finding its footing, its ideological underpinning is old indeed. The right-wing populism manifested in the movement is essentially the same old **Social Darwinism** that became a kind of sacred truth in American society in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Father of modern conservatism

Modern American conservatism formed in the early years of the Cold War, when New Deal liberalism seemed triumphant. Though it has many tributaries, the mainstream movement consists of several core ideas: that societies are ordered in classes based on divine intent and/or personal responsibility; that property and freedom are inseparable; that markets should be unfettered from government regulation; that traditions must be adhered to for social stability; and that societies should evolve slowly.

All of modern conservatism's founders articulated these principles in their writings. Perhaps the most influential work in conservatism's late-twentieth-century ascent was **Barry Goldwater's The Conscience of a Conservative, published in 1960**. But one of the original progenitors of contemporary social and political conservative thought—**William Graham Sumner (1840-1910)**—is nowhere to be found in lists of modern conservatism's canonical texts. The reason is simple. His philosophy is so harsh and reactionary that to embrace it openly would be political suicide. Nonetheless, his ideas are everywhere in the right-wing populism that has gained ground during the last year.

Sumner believed that the fundamental law of the universe was survival of the fittest. So progressivism or socialism or any ideology that aimed to "save individuals from any of the difficulties or hardships of the struggle for existence" was pure folly. Like today's right-wing populist revolt, Sumner's brand of Social Darwinism propagated an unabashed but seamless defense of two groups that would seem to be at odds: the Captain of Industry and the Forgotten Man.

For Sumner, both of these figurative "men" had more to fear from the paternal state than they did from each other. Take **the Captain of Industry**. For Sumner, society depended on the creation of individual wealth; thus, social advancement for all depended on the financial abilities of the few. "If we should set a limit to the accumulation of wealth," he wrote, "we

should say to our most valued producers, ‘We do not want you to do us the services which you best understand how to perform, beyond a certain point.’ It would be like killing off our generals in a war.”

Sumner believed hereditary wealth was a product of the laws of nature as well, and he defended it vigorously. Since the millionaire and his offspring were responsible for enriching their communities through their wealth production, personal wealth had to stay in the family. To do otherwise was a state-sponsored assault on personal liberty.

But if Sumner strongly defended the wealthy, his defense of **the Forgotten Man**—who prizes liberty, not wealth, above all—was equally fervent. “It is plain enough that the Forgotten Man and the Forgotten Woman are the very life and substance of society,” he wrote. “They are the ones who ought to be first and always remembered. They are always forgotten by sentimentalists, philanthropists, reformers, enthusiasts, and every description of speculator in sociology, political economy or political science.”

A free man in a free state had only one major duty, according to Sumner: “to take care of his or her own self. That is a social duty.” If one could not take care of oneself, that was of no consequence to others.

Sumner believed that the causes of poverty were misunderstood and the policy of state intervention was deeply misguided. Social welfare through state intervention replaced the survival of the fittest with the survival of the unfit. And that was disastrous for civilization.

The road to Sarah Palin

The New Deal was about many things, but at its core it sought to rearrange the relationship—formed in the Gilded Age of the late-nineteenth century—between the government, the Forgotten Man, and the Captain of Industry. With the help of an economic crisis, Franklin D. Roosevelt convinced Americans that government intervention was necessary to curb the Captain of Industry’s greed and irresponsibility.

Over the last four decades, conservatives have successfully mounted a counter-argument to this New Deal narrative. **The key to their success has been Sumner’s Forgotten Man, the same mythical figure that Tea Partiers have been fighting for. The left underestimates the power of their grievances at its peril.**

In the world according to Tea Party protesters, poverty is not about the structural deficiencies of capitalism; it is about personal idleness and extravagance. Welfare is not about alleviating poverty; it is about doing away with a government handout that breeds dependency. Gay marriage is not about “equal rights”; it is about government telling you what values you should be compelled to uphold. The estate tax on the super-rich is not about the fair redistribution of wealth; it is a final assault—a “death tax”—on the liberty of the dearly departed.

In their world, the Forgotten Man and Woman are constantly (in Sumner’s words) “threatened by every extension of the paternal theory of government.” **This is the logic of Sumner’s Social Darwinism. Its broad appeal lies in an elegant simplicity: government always crushes the individual’s liberty.**

Combating Social Darwinism

Conventional wisdom holds that Barack Obama is not a natural populist, that this cerebral former law professor doesn’t know how to push populist buttons. That may be true. But Obama understands that for decades the American public has been fed a steady diet of Sumner’s Social Darwinism. **Today, fewer Americans trust government than at any point in modern history—and this is after a financial meltdown. Making the case that government can be trusted to stand between the Forgotten Man and the corporate raiders who caused this mess is not easy.** After a year in which the discussion turned on government intervention in many aspects of American society, it was only a matter of time before we saw the return of Social Darwinism.

Despite Americans' lack of trust in government, Obama and his supporters should take comfort in two things. First, whether or not they believe that government actually works, the overwhelming majority of Americans believe that government should solve big problems. The doctrine of "mind your own business" is so far out of the mainstream today that few could imagine government not involved in social welfare programs like education and healthcare. The era of big government is here to stay.

Second, those New Deal policies that were directed at FDR's "forgotten" men and women eventually created the biggest middle class in the history of human civilization. **Though it has lost ground, the middle class is also here to stay. Defeating Social Darwinism means framing every policy decision around that class. Doing so will require more left-leaning populism from this president. He must persuade Americans that all the taken-for-granted fundamentals of modern middle-class life—healthcare, home mortgages, college education for the kids, etc.—are jeopardized by the power and greed of the new Captains of Industry.**

To move the country forward, in other words, Obama must learn from the battles that FDR fought in the 1930s. Today, the stakes are just as high and the challenges are just as great. There is hope to be found in this fact: FDR's successes created the most prosperous three decades in American history. Obama can do the same. **But where there is a way, there isn't necessarily a will. Time will tell.**

© 2010 In These Times All rights reserved.

Enough Tea Party-Style Whining -- It's Time to Take Back Our Jobs and Businesses

By Frances Moore Lappé [article link](#)

Posted on April 10, 2010, Printed on April 10, 2010 AlterNet

10 Visionary Ideas for Progressives

By Daniela Perdomo [article link](#)

Posted on April 10, 2010, Printed on April 10, 2010 AlterNet

Naomi Wolf Thinks the Tea Parties Help Fight Fascism -- Is She Onto Something or in Fantasy Land?

By Justine Sharrock [article link](#)

March 30, 2010 NEWS & POLITICS AlterNet

AlterNet [home page](#)

Tea Partiers Are Fairly Mainstream in Their Demographics

Skew right politically, but have typical profile by age, education, and employment

by Lydia Saad [article link](#)

April 5, 2010

GALLUP [home page](#)

Our Call To Action

A Call to Action for Real Financial Services Reform [article link](#)

Americans For Financial Reform [home page](#)

Pro-gun 'patriot groups' plan dual rallies in Washington on disputed April anniversary

By Stephen C. Webster [article link](#)

Monday, April 5th, 2010

the raw story [home page](#)

Oath Keepers and the Age of Treason

By Justine Sharrock [article link](#)

Mother Jones March/April 2010 Issue

Mother Jones [home page](#)

WHAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN: TWO KEY RALLIES ON APRIL 19, 2010

Special Message from Stewart Rhodes, Founder of Oath Keepers [article link](#)

Oath Keepers is a non-partisan association of currently serving military, reserves, National Guard, veterans, Peace Officers, and Fire Fighters who will fulfill the Oath we swore, with the support of like minded citizens who take an Oath to stand with us, to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic, so help us God. Our Oath is to the Constitution

Our motto is "Not on our watch!"

Oath Keepers [home page](#)

Let Us Finally Gift The Life That Was Gifted To Us !!

by MMr [blog link](#)

Saturday, April 3, 2010

... WE MUST RESIST: ** OUR ONLY WEAPON IS OUR REFUSAL !! ** Violence must be avoided at all cost, the Corporate behave as beasts, we must not. Partisanship is used by those wholly corporate as it is an instrumentality of it. **A blend of Rwandan-Serbian "Tea" steeped in hate and violence will only serve corporate interests and increase our suppression and enslavement.** Those who incite violence must be indicted; if death results they must be charged with inciting Genocide. An invective firestorm can only result in harm and they know it - DO NOT BE USED BY THEM !! ...

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:17 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Friday, April 9, 2010

[Bishop/Green: 3 Steps Americans Must Take](#)

3 Steps Americans Must Take to Prevent Another Economic Meltdown

By Matthew Bishop and Michael Green [article link](#)

Posted on April 6, 2010, Printed on April 9, 2010

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

A year and a half after the catastrophic failure of our economic system in September 2008 and we are still standing at the crossroads, trying to figure out where to go next. Wall Street and the White House are fighting over new regulatory rules for the banking system and a trade war with China threatens. **Real change seems a long way off and we have not even started talking about some of the deep-rooted causes of the crisis -- the failure of corporate leadership, the problems in how we measure success in business, and the top-to-bottom financial illiteracy that allowed such a massive bubble to inflate.**

One of the most shocking things about the crisis was the way that banks and other financial institutions simply ploughed ahead with their failing business strategies even as the economic storm clouds gathered and the credit crunch thundered. As one bank chief executive (now ex-chief executive) put it, "as long as the music is playing, you've got to get up and dance. We're still dancing."

The popular response to this casual disregard for anything but short-term profit-chasing is to boggle and rage at the stupidity of bankers. Look deeper though and the causes are clear: staff who thought about nothing but the immediate (bonus-linked) targets, CEOs who had no other benchmark of success than quarterly profit figures, boards that were asleep at the wheel, and shareholders that were too visionless or too powerless to challenge how these companies were being run.

We are not going to build a more sustainable, healthier capitalism unless we tackle these problems. In particular, action is needed on three main fronts.

First, the rising profits, surging share prices and buoyant economic growth in the years preceding the crisis may have glistened, but we now know that they were not gold. The booming stock market and record levels of GDP were but a mirage of prosperity -- we need better ways of measuring how companies and the economy as a whole are performing. It is hard to get excited about accounting rules and statistics but, if we do not get these right, then our economy will always be driving blind.

Second, there needs to be an urgent overhaul of how companies are run. Making boards and CEOs more accountable to shareholders (it is surprising how little power shareholders really have) is a good first step. **Yet we also need to change the whole culture of business away from a blinkered 'greed is good' mentality.** Too many people, from mortgage salesmen to top executives, have fallen back on the 'Nuremberg excuse' that they were just following orders. That is not good enough. **Business without values or professional ethics is bad business.**

Third, shareholders themselves need to step up -- and that includes you. Pension funds had a massive stake in the companies that drove the economy over the cliff, which is why so many peoples' retirement plans have been hit. Those funds were not, and still are not, doing much to challenge the way companies are run, preferring to just 'track the market' when, surely, they should be the most far-sighted investors, thinking about which businesses are going to be successful in 20, 30, 40 years' time. **That is not somebody else's problem. It is down to ordinary investors to question and challenge how their pension savings are invested.**

Doing that will not be easy when so many of us are financially illiterate. It is not just the people who took out mortgages they could never afford that unwittingly made basic economic errors. It was almost everyone, including -- crucially -- many in banking, the media and politics who take many of the most important economic decisions. Too many in Congress, for example, preferred to take special deals from sub-prime mortgage lenders such as Countrywide to asking whether the sub-prime mortgage bonanza made any sense. The media was too often a cheerleader for an unsustainable boom.

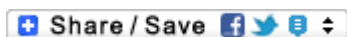
Great thinkers about democracy, including America's Founding Fathers, have long understood that our system of government only works if citizens are competent to think about and debate the important decisions that are placed before them. **In the same way, the capitalist system needs economically competent citizens if it is to thrive.**

These are not quick fixes that can be achieved by a piece of legislation or an executive order. **This is an agenda that will require hard work to renew and revive capitalism to serve us better. Let's get to work.**

Matthew Bishop is the U.S. business editor of The Economist and co-author, along with Michael Green, of Road from Ruin – How to Revive Capitalism and put America Back on top (Crown Business, Jan. 2010)

© 2010 Independent Media Institute. All rights reserved.

AlterNet [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:33 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Tamara Brennan: Looking Beyond Money, Living Beyond Fear

Looking Beyond Money, Living Beyond Fear

by Tamara Brennan [article link](#)

Published on Friday, April 9, 2010 by CommonDreams.org

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

The recession has dramatically demonstrated just how interconnected we are. As the housing crisis hit the calm waters of people's daily lives it sent waves that traveled over the nation and quickly reached far shores around the world. Unfortunately fear about the future is contagious. People hold back in their spending and local economies shrink like cashmere in the dryer.

We have given the idea of money incredible power. Great acts of altruism are accomplished through philanthropy that brings hope and comfort where there had been none. But in its darker incarnations money creates empires capable of destroying ecosystems and wasting the health of whole populations. Money fathered the industry of war.

On the individual level, lack of enough money causes us tremendous pain. **We have been indoctrinated to believe that without the special printed paper that comes from any nation's mint we cannot obtain the goods and services needed for a good life.** It doesn't matter if they are rupees, quetzales, pula, yen, rand, euros or dollars, without enough in their pockets people resign themselves to dissatisfaction, poverty and suffering.

Under the current economic circumstances, it is more urgent than ever that we shun the limiting beliefs we may have about our power to acquire what we need and look beyond our wallets for other forms of currency. There is a well of creativity that can be tapped to bring more abundance to people and communities. This is a good time to experiment with ways to re-invent commerce and expand our potential to acquire the things we need and want. Here are a few ideas that have worked.

In the early '80s while living in Durango, Colorado I made my living by practicing therapeutic massage. A town of ski bums, mountain bikers and climbers, people were just getting by from what they could earned during our winter and summer tourist seasons. Massage for many was a luxury they could not afford.

Wanting to increase my ability to acquire what I needed, I started offering to trade professional massage in exchange for goods and services. Who would not want a massage to relieve stress or to alleviate the pains of hard mountain biking or skiing? My trade activity grew rapidly. The owner of the local bookstore, an avid mountain biker, let me charge books which were paid for with massage. A fellow called to ask if I'd like a cord of firewood delivered to my cabin door before the first snows. I jokingly accused my dentist of being over zealous in finding work to do in my mouth to which she admitted wanting more massage. People began to pay debts to others by transferring massages to them.

This bartering grew to include others throughout town. There was no formal structure, just agreements between people, "I'll give you my services in exchange for your goods, sound good?" People were able to do business without cash just by keeping the agreements.

Eventually someone created a register of available bartering partners, making it possible to trade with people one did not previously know. As if to prove the success of the movement, the organizer of the register was contacted by the IRS with instructions to oblige barterers to pay income tax on the value of the trade. After a bit of eye-rolling, people continued the tax-free, people-to-people trading.

A more formal extension of bartering is the creation of "local currency" as a community-based system of exchange. One of the better known experiments with local currency has been going on since the recession of 1991 in Ithaca, New York. **"Ithaca Hours"** can be used to buy goods and services in Ithaca. The movement began when vendors at the local farmer's market decided to accept hours for products. It soon expanded widely to include many businesses. Eventually Ithaca Hours received serious attention from the central bank in China that sent a high level official to Ithaca to study it. The [E.F.](#)

[Schumacher Society](#), founded to carry on the ideas of the visionary economist and author of Small is Beautiful, promotes such community-based experiments.

Once you get out of the box of thinking you need money for all business there is no limit to the kinds of cash-free services that are possible as Alec Keefer demonstrated in Portland, Oregon. Alec dropped out of high school to read heady books in the basement of a house he and friends squatted. A true believer in the power of permaculture to reshape societies into sustainable systems, listening to Alec's analysis of how to transform society's institutions is as good as or better than talking with any futurist sociologist.

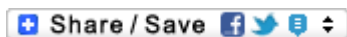
In his early twenties, Alec founded the Anarchist Post Office in Portland, a town where biking is a major mode of transportation. It worked like this. People dropped off their mail at boxes in participating coffee shops, stores and restaurants. Volunteer mail carriers delivered letters with destinations that happened to be on their way as they biked around town. No postage was paid. People just did the favor as they did their errands.

We are fundamentally creative beings capable of composing great symphonies and building hospitals to save lives. These times are testing us, encouraging us to remember the breadth of our better natures. **We are being pushed to seize new opportunities for cooperation and trust, and to make a stronger commitment to the common good.**

If we go into that realm where fear has to wait outside, we will encounter the courage and excitement to try new ways to meet our needs in cooperation with others. As more people experiment with creating innovative systems it will become clear that the crisis has presented us with an opportunity to refashion commerce to better support each other and help businesses thrive where we live. If that excitement were to become contagious, we could very well find ourselves creating prosperity for many while at the same time liberating ourselves from fear. Keep the faith.

Tamara Brennan, Ph.D., is the executive director of the non-profit [Sexto Sol Center for Community Action](#) with projects in Chiapas, Mexico and Guatemala.

CommonDreams [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Thursday, April 8, 2010

[Internet and Media Control](#)

Shocking Censorship at Google News and the Future of Net Neutrality

by David DeGraw [report link](#)

Posted on Thursday, April 8th, 2010

Amped Status [home page](#)

Help the Internet Stay Open!

by Common Cause

An outrageous federal court decision could hand over control of the Internet to companies like Comcast, AT&T and Verizon. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) can act to reassert its authority and stand with the nearly 2 million Americans who have demanded Net Neutrality -- the one thing stopping these companies from interfering with your experience online.

This week, as the FCC weighs an important Net Neutrality rule and its very ability to protect Internet users, it must hear from you. Sign this letter now and tell the FCC to stand up for the public and protect the open Internet once and for all.

Common Cause [web page](#)

Net neutrality ruling is a call to arms

Why a court decision that the FCC can't enforce equal Internet access for all users should scare us into action

BY JENN KEPKA [article link](#)

TUESDAY, APR 6, 2010

In today's media, substance is no match for BS

Drudge, Fox News, talk radio - and even Keith Olbermann: Too many media voices revel in baseless incitement

BY GENE LYONS [article link](#)

WEDNESDAY, APR 7, 2010

Salon [home page](#)

Net Neutrality -- The Fight Ahead

By Tim Karr [article link](#) [article link](#)

April 7, 2010

Save The Internet [home page](#)

CommonDreams [home page](#)

What If AT&T Prevented You from Reading This Article?

Comcast, AT&T and Verizon are making a play to control the Internet. Tell Obama and the FCC to preserve an open and free Internet.

Media and Culture [article link](#)

April 8, 2010 | Alternet

Editor's Note: The following is the text of a powerful email sent by activist group Color of Change to its members, urging direct action against the telecoms' onslaught on Net Neutrality.

Color of Change [home page](#)

AlterNet [home page](#)

How the Corporations Broke Ralph Nader and America, Too

By Chris Hedges [article link](#)

Posted on Apr 5, 2010

truthdig [home page](#)

Iraq Killings and Media Indifference

Leaked video mostly ignored by corporate media

Media Advisory [article link](#)

4/7/10

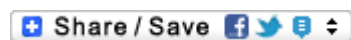
FAIR [home page](#)

Collateral Damage? - Dead Civilians in Iraq

by Mac Slavo [article link](#)

April 7th, 2010

SHTF Plan [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:26 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Secular Prophets: Indicant 10

The Global Economic Crisis: Riots, Rebellion and Revolution

When Empire Hits Home, Part 3

By Andrew Gavin Marshall [article link](#)

Global Research, April 7, 2010

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

This is Part 3 of the series, "When Empire Hits Home."

Part 1: **War, Racism and the Empire of Poverty** [article link](#)

Part 2: **Western Civilization and the Economic Crisis: The Impoverishment of the Middle Class** [article link](#)

As nations of the world are thrown into a debt crisis, the likes of which have never been seen before, harsh fiscal ‘austerity’ measures will be undertaken in a flawed attempt to service the debts. The result will be the elimination of the middle class. When the middle class is absorbed into the labour class – the lower class – and lose their social, political, and economic foundations, they will riot, rebel, and revolt.

Ratings Agency Predicts Civil Unrest

Moody’s is a major ratings agency, which performs financial research and analysis on governments and commercial entities and ranks the credit-worthiness of borrowers. On March 15, Moody’s warned that the US, the UK, Germany, France, and Spain “are all at risk of soaring debt costs and will have to implement austerity plans that threaten ‘social cohesion’.” Further, Moody’s warned that such ‘austerity’ measures increase the potential for ‘social unrest’:

"Growth alone will not resolve an increasingly complicated debt equation. Preserving debt affordability at levels consistent with AAA ratings will invariably require fiscal adjustments of a magnitude that, in some cases, will test social cohesion," said Pierre Cailleteau, the chief author.

"We are not talking about revolution, but the severity of the crisis will force governments to make painful choices that expose weaknesses in society," he said.[1]

In other words, due to the massive debt levels of western nations taken on to save the banks from the crisis they caused, the people must now pay through a reduction of their standards of living. Naturally, social unrest would follow.

This has not been the first or only warning of “social unrest” in the west, and it certainly won’t be the last.

The Economic Crisis and Civil Unrest

At the onset of the economic crisis, these warnings were numerous. While many will claim that since we have moved on since the fall of 2008, these warnings are no longer valid. However, considering that the western world is on the verge of a far greater economic crisis that will spread over the next few years, from Greece to America, a great global debt depression, these warnings should be reviewed with an eye on the near future.

In December of 2008, in the midst of the worst period of the crisis of 2008, the IMF issued a warning to government’s of the west to “step up action to stem the global economic crisis or risk delaying a recovery and sparking violent unrest on the streets.”[2] However, governments did not stem or stop the economic crisis, they simply delayed the eventual and inevitable crisis to come, the debt crisis. In fact, the actions governments took to “stem” the economic crisis, or delay it, more accurately, have, in actuality, exacerbated the compound effects that the crisis will ultimately have. **In short, bailing out the banks has created a condition in which an inevitable debt crisis will become far greater in scope and devastation than had they simply allowed the banks to fail.**

Even the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the most prestigious financial institution in the world – the central bank to the world's central banks – has warned that the bailouts have put the global economy in potentially far greater peril. The BIS warned that, “The scope and magnitude of the bank rescue packages also meant that significant risks had been transferred onto government balance sheets.”[3]

The head of the IMF warned that, “violent protests could break out in countries worldwide if the financial system was not restructured to benefit everyone rather than a small elite.”[4] However, he is disingenuous in his statements, as he and the institution he represents are key players in that “small elite” that benefit from the global financial system; this is the very system he serves.

In late December of 2008, “A U.S. Army War College report warn[ed] an economic crisis in the United States could lead to massive civil unrest and the need to call on the military to restore order.” The report stated:

Widespread civil violence inside the United States would force the defense establishment to reorient priorities ... to defend basic domestic order and human security.[5]

Further revealed in the news release was the information that, “Pentagon officials said as many as 20,000 Soldiers under the **U.S. Northern Command** (NORTHCOM) will be trained within the next three years to work with civilian law enforcement in homeland security.”[6]

Europe in Social Crisis

In January of 2009, it was reported that Eastern Europe was expected to experience a “dangerous popular backlash on the streets” over the spring in response to the economic crisis:

Hit increasingly hard by the financial crisis, countries such as Bulgaria, Romania and the Baltic states face deep political destabilisation and social strife, as well as an increase in racial tension.

Last week protesters were tear-gassed as they threw rocks at police outside parliament in Vilnius, capital of Lithuania, in a protest against an austerity package including tax rises and benefit cuts.[7]

In January of 2009, Latvia experienced the largest protests since the mass rallies against Soviet rule in the late 1980s, with the protests eventually turning into riots. Similar “outbursts of civil unrest” spread across the “periphery of Europe.”[8]

This should be taken as a much larger warning, as the nations of Eastern Europe are forced into fiscal ‘austerity’ measures before they spread through the western world. Just as throughout the 1980s and the 1990s, countries of the ‘global south’, which signed Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) with the IMF and World Bank, were forced to undertake neoliberal reforms and harsh fiscal austerity measures. The people of these nations rioted and rebelled, in what was cynically referred to as “IMF riots”. **What our nations have done abroad, in the name of ‘aid’ but in the intent of empire, is now coming home. The west will undergo its very own “IMF riots”.**

The fears of civil unrest, however, were not confined simply to the periphery of Europe. In January of 2009, a massive French strike was taking place, as “teachers, television employees, postal workers, students and masses of other public-sector workers” were expressing discontent with the handling of the economic crisis; as “A depression triggered in America is being played out in Europe with increasing violence, and other forms of social unrest are spreading.”[9]

By late January, France was “paralysed by a wave of strike action, the boulevards of Paris resembling a debris-strewn battlefield.” Yet, the ‘credit crunch’ had hit harder in Eastern Europe and the civil unrest was greater, as these countries had abandoned Communism some twenty years prior only to be crushed under the “free market” of Capitalism, leading many to feel betrayed: “Europe's time of troubles is gathering depth and scale. Governments are trembling. Revolt is in the air.”[10]

Olivier Besancenot, the leader of France's extreme left "is hoping the strike will be the first step towards another French revolution as the recession bites and protests multiply across Europe's second largest economy." He told the Financial Times that, "We want the established powers to be blown apart," and that, "We are going to reinvent and re-establish the anticapitalist project." [11]

In January of 2009, Iceland's government collapsed due to the pressures from the economic crisis, and amidst a storm of Icelanders protesting in anger against the political class. As the Times reported, "it is a sign of things to come: a new age of rebellion." An economist at the London School of Economics warned that we could expect large-scale civil unrest beginning in March to May of 2009:

It will be caused by the rise of general awareness throughout Europe, America and Asia that hundreds of millions of people in rich and poor countries are experiencing rapidly falling consumption standards; that the crisis is getting worse not better; and that it has escaped the control of public authorities, national and international. [12]

In February of 2009, the Guardian reported that police in Britain were preparing for a "summer of rage" as "victims of the economic downturn take to the streets to demonstrate against financial institutions." Police officials warned "that middle-class individuals who would never have considered joining demonstrations may now seek to vent their anger through protests this year." [13]

In March, it was reported that "top secret contingency plans" had been drawn up to counter the threat posed by a possible "summer of discontent," which "has led to the extraordinary step of the Army being put on standby." The report revealed that, "What worries emergency planners most is that the middle classes, now struggling to cope with unemployment and repossessions, may take to the streets with the disenfranchised." [14]

As the G20 met in London in early April 2009, mass protests took place, resulting in violence, "with a band of demonstrators close to the Bank of England storming a Royal Bank of Scotland branch, and baton-wielding police charging a sit-down protest by students." While the majority of protests were peaceful, "some bloody skirmishes broke out as police tried to keep thousands of people in containment pens surrounding the Bank of England." [15] Protests further broke out into riots as a Royal Bank of Scotland office was looted. [16] The following day, a man collapsed and died in central London during the protests shortly after having been assaulted by riot police. [17]

On May 1, 2009, major protests and riots broke out in Germany, Greece, Turkey, France and Austria, fuelled by economic tensions:

Police in Berlin arrested 57 people while around 50 officers were hurt as young demonstrators threw bottles and rocks and set fire to cars and rubbish bins. There were also clashes in Hamburg, where anti-capitalist protesters attacked a bank.

In Turkey, masked protesters threw stones and petrol bombs at police, smashing banks and supermarket windows in its biggest city, Istanbul. Security forces fired tear gas and water cannon at hundreds of rioters and more than a hundred were arrested with dozens more hurt. There were also scattered skirmishes with police in the capital, Ankara, where 150,000 people marched. [18]

There were further protests and riots that broke out in Russia, Italy, Spain, and some politicians were even discussing the threat of revolution. [19]

As a debt crisis began spreading throughout Europe in Greece, Portugal, and Spain, social unrest followed suit. Riots and protests increasingly took place in Greece, showing signs of things to come to all other western nations, which will sooner or later have to face the harsh reality of their odious debts. [20]

Is Civil Unrest Coming to America?

In February of 2009, Obama's intelligence chief, Dennis Blair, the Director of National Intelligence, told the Senate Intelligence Committee that the economic crisis has become the greatest threat to U.S. national security:

I'd like to begin with the global economic crisis, because it already looms as the most serious one in decades, if not in centuries ... Economic crises increase the risk of regime-threatening instability if they are prolonged for a one- or two-year period... And instability can loosen the fragile hold that many developing countries have on law and order, which can spill out in dangerous ways into the international community.[21]

What this means, is that economic crises (“if they are prolonged for a one or two year period”) pose a major threat to the established powers – the governing and economic powers – in the form of social unrest and rebellion (“regime-threatening instability”). The colonial possessions – Africa, South America, and Asia – will experience the worst of the economic conditions, which “can loosen the fragile hold that many developing countries have.” This can then come back to the western nations and imperial powers themselves, as the riots and rebellion will spread home, but also as they may lose control of their colonial possessions – eliminating western elites from a position of power internationally, and acquiescence domestically: The rebellion and discontent in the ‘Third World’ “can spill out in dangerous ways into the international community.”

In the same month, the highest-ranking general in the United States, “Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, ranks the financial crisis as a higher priority and greater risk to security than current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.” He explained, “It's a global crisis. And as that impacts security issues, or feeds greater instability, I think it will impact on our national security in ways that we quite haven't figured out yet.”[22] Rest assured, they've figured it out, but they don't want to tell you.

Again, in the same month, the head of the World Trade Organization (WTO) warned that, “The global economic crisis could trigger political unrest equal to that seen during the 1930s.” He elaborated, “The crisis today is spreading even faster (than the Great Depression) and affects more countries at the same time.”[23]

In February of 2009, renowned economic historian and Harvard professor, Niall Ferguson, predicted a “prolonged financial hardship, even civil war, before the ‘Great Recession’ ends,” and that, “The global crisis is far from over, [it] has only just begun, and Canada is no exception,” he said while at a speaking event in Canada. He explained, “Policy makers and forecasters who see a recovery next year are probably lying to boost public confidence,” while, “the crisis will eventually provoke political conflict.” He further explained:

There will be blood, in the sense that a crisis of this magnitude is bound to increase political as well as economic [conflict]. It is bound to destabilize some countries. It will cause civil wars to break out, that have been dormant. It will topple governments that were moderate and bring in governments that are extreme. These things are pretty predictable.[24]

Even in May of 2009, the head of the World Bank warned that, “the global economic crisis could lead to serious social upheaval,” as “there is a risk of a serious human and social crisis with very serious political implications.”[25]

Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security Adviser, co-founder of the Trilateral Commission and a key architect of ‘globalization’ warned in February of 2009 that, “There's going to be growing conflict between the classes and if people are unemployed and really hurting, hell, there could be even riots!”[26]

In early May 2009, the New York Times reported on the results of a major poll, suggesting, “A solid majority of people in the major Western democracies expect a rise in political extremism in their countries as a result of the economic crisis.” Of those surveyed, 53% in Italy and the United States said they expected extremism is “certain to happen” or “probable” in the next three years. That percentage increases to 65% in Britain and Germany, and is at 60% in France and Spain.[27]

Over the summer of 2009, the major nations of the west and their corporate media machines promoted and propagandized the notion of an ‘economic recovery’, allowing dissent to quell, spending to increase, stock market speculation to accelerate, and people's fears and concerns to subside. It was a massive organized propaganda effort, and it had major successes for a while.

However, in the New Year, this illusion is largely being derided for what it is, a fantasy. With the slow but steady erosion of this economic illusion, fears of riots, rebellion and revolution return. On March 1, 2010, Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan warned President Obama about civil unrest, saying:

When we can't feed our families what do you tell us? Thou shalt not steal? When survival is the first law of nature? What are you going to do when black people and poor people erupt in the streets of America? It's coming! Will you use the federal troops, Mr. President, against the poor?[28]

A March 8 article in the Wall Street Journal speculated about the discontent among the American people in regards to the economy, suggesting that it is “likely” that the economy has “bottomed” and that it will simply “trudge along” until November. However, the author suggested that given all the growing discontent in a variety of areas, it wouldn't be surprising to see some civil unrest:

Now, contrary to what you may read in the New York Times or the Huffington Post, the ugliness could come from anywhere – the Left, the Center or the Right. Almost everyone in America thinks they've been betrayed.[29]

Clearly, the possibility and inevitability of riots in the United States, and in fact in many western nations becomes increasingly apparent. The middle classes will likely become the most angered and mobilized populace, having their social foundations pulled out from under them, and with that, they are overcome with a ‘failure of expectations’ for their political and economic clout. With no social foundations on which to stand, a class cannot reach high in the political and economic ladder, nationally or internationally.

As documented in [Part 2](#) of this series, the middle class, for the past few decades, has been a class living on debt, consuming on debt, surviving on debt and existing only in theory. As nations collapse into a global debt crisis, the middle classes and the college students will be plunged into a world which they have seldom known: poverty. As documented in [Part 1](#) of this series, the global social systems of poverty, race and war are inextricably interrelated and dependent on one another. As the middle class is absorbed into the global poverty class – the labour class – our nations in the west vastly expand their hegemony over the world's resources and key strategic points, rapidly accelerating military involvement in every region of the world. **As war expands, poverty grows, and racial issues are exacerbated; thus, the government asserts a totalitarian system of control.**

Will the Middle Class Become Revolutionary?

In 2007, a British Defence Ministry report was released assessing global trends in the world over the next 30 years. The report stated assuredly that, “During the next 30 years, every aspect of human life will change at an unprecedented rate, throwing up new features, challenges and opportunities.”[30] In regards to ‘globalization,’ the report states:

A key feature of globalization will be the continuing internationalization of markets for goods, services and labour, which will integrate geographically dispersed sets of customers and suppliers. This will be an engine for accelerating economic growth, but will also be a source of risk, as local markets become increasingly exposed to destabilizing fluctuations in the wider global economy... Also, there will continue to be winners and losers in a global economy led by market forces, especially so in the field of labour, which will be subject to particularly ruthless laws of supply and demand.[31]

Another major focus of the report is in the area of “**Global Inequality**,” of which the report states, over the next 30 years:

[T]he gap between rich and poor will probably increase and absolute poverty will remain a global challenge... Disparities in wealth and advantage will therefore become more obvious, with their associated grievances and resentments, even among the growing numbers of people who are likely to be materially more prosperous than their parents and grandparents. Absolute poverty and comparative disadvantage will fuel perceptions of injustice among those whose expectations are not met, increasing tension and instability, both within and between societies and resulting in expressions of violence such as disorder, criminality, terrorism and insurgency. **They may also lead to the resurgence of not only anti-capitalist ideologies, possibly linked to religious, anarchist or nihilist movements, but also to populism and the revival of Marxism.**[32]

The report states quite emphatically that there is a great potential for a revolution coming from the middle class:

The middle classes could become a revolutionary class, taking the role envisaged for the proletariat by Marx. The globalization of labour markets and reducing levels of national welfare provision and employment could reduce peoples' attachment to particular states. The growing gap between themselves and a small number of highly visible super-rich individuals might fuel disillusion with meritocracy, while the growing urban under-classes are likely to pose an increasing threat to social order and stability, as the burden of acquired debt and the failure of pension provision begins to bite. Faced by these twin challenges, the world's middle-classes might unite, using access to knowledge, resources and skills to shape transnational processes in their own class interest.[33]

Is Revolution the Right Way Forward?

As the world has already experienced the greatest transfer of wealth in human history, the greatest social transformation in world history is soon to follow. The middle classes of the west, long the foundations upon which the consumer capitalist system was based, are about to be radically reorganized and integrated into the global labour class. As this process commences and accelerates, the middle classes will begin to protest, riot, rebel, and possibly revolt.

We must ask ourselves: Is this the right way forward?

History is nothing but an example that when revolution takes place, it can quickly and effectively be hijacked by militant and extremist elements, often resulting in a situation worse than that prior to the revolution. Often, these elements themselves are co-opted by the ruling elite, ensuring that whatever regime rises in the ashes of the old, no matter how militant or radical, it will continue to serve and expand the entrenched interests of elites. This is the worst-case scenario of revolution, and with history as a guide, it is also a common occurrence. To understand the nature of co-opted revolutions and entrenched elites, one need only look at the revolutions in France and Russia.[34]

While the righteous indignation and anger of the western middle class population, and in fact, the global population as a whole, is entirely justified, there is an extreme danger in the possibilities of how such a revolutionary class may act. **It is imperative to not take violent action, as it would merely be playing directly into the hands of states and global institutions that have been preparing for this eventuality for some time.** Nations are becoming 'Homeland Security States', setting up surveillance societies, increasing the role of the military in domestic issues and policing, expanding the police state apparatus and militarizing society in general. Democracy is in decline; it is a dying idea. Nation states are increasingly tossing aside even the remaining vestiges of a democratic façade and preparing for a new totalitarianism to arise, in conjunction with the rise of a 'new capitalism'.

Violent action and riots by the people of these nations will only result in a harsh and brutal closing of society, as the state clamps down on the people and installs an oppressive form of governance. This is a trend and process of which the people should not help speed along. **Violent acts will result in violent oppression.** While peaceful opposition may itself be oppressed and even violently repressed by the state apparatus, the notion of a clamp down on peaceful protesters is likely to increase dissatisfaction with the ruling powers, increase support for the protesters, and may ultimately speed up the process of a truly new change in governance. It's difficult to demonize peaceful action.

While people will surely be in the streets, seeking to expand their social, political, and economic rights, we must undertake as a global society, a rapid and extensive expansion of our mental and intellectual rights and responsibilities. We cannot take to the streets without taking on the challenges of our minds. This cannot alone be a physical change in governance that people seek – not simply a political revolution – this must be coupled and driven by an intellectual revolution. What is required is a new Enlightenment, a new Renaissance. While the Enlightenment and Renaissance were western movements of thinking and social change, the new global Enlightenment must be a truly transnational and worldwide revolution in thinking.

Western Civilization has failed. It will continue to insist upon its own dominance, but it is a failure in regards to addressing the interests of all human civilization. Elites like to think that they are in absolute control and are all-powerful; this is not the case. For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. Take, for example, the integration of

North America into a regional bloc like that of the European Union, an entirely elite-driven project of which the people largely know little or nothing about. Elites seek to force the people of this region to increasingly identify themselves as 'North American', just as elites in Europe increasingly push for a 'European' identity as opposed to a national identity. While the intended purpose of this social reorganization is to more easily control people, it has the effect of uniting some of these people in opposition to these elite-driven projects. Thus, those they seek to unite in order to control, are then united in opposition to their very control.

As the 'globalization project' of constructing a 'new world order' expands, built upon the concepts of global governance, elites will inadvertently unite the people of the world in opposition to their power-project. This is the intellectual well that must be tapped as soon as possible. Ideas for a truly new world, a true human 'civilization' – a "Humane Civilization" – must be constructed from ideas originating in all regions of the world, from all peoples, of all religions, races, ethnicities, social groups and standings. If we are to make human civilization work, it must work for all of humanity.

This will require a global "revolution in thinking", which must precede any direct political action. The global social, political, and economic system must be deconstructed and built anew. The people of the world do not want war, it is the leaders – the powerful – who decide to go to war, and they are never the ones to fight them. **War is a crime against humanity, a crime of poverty, of discrimination, of hate. The social, political and economic foundations of war must be dismantled.** Socially constructed divides between people – such as race and ethnicity – must be dismantled and done away with. **All people must be treated as people; racial and gender inequality is a crime against humanity itself.**

Poverty is the greatest crime against humanity the world has ever known. Any society that permits such gross inequalities and absolute poverty, which calls itself 'civilized', is only an aberration of the word, itself. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated:

I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a "thing-oriented" society to a "person-oriented" society. **When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.**[35]

Endnotes

- [1] Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, Moody's fears social unrest as AAA states implement austerity plans. The Telegraph: March 15, 2010: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/economics/7450468/Moodys-fears-social-unrest-as-AAA-states-implement-austerity-plans.html>
- [2] Angela Balakrishnan, IMF chief issues stark warning on economic crisis. The Guardian: December 18, 2008: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2008/dec/16/imf-financial-crisis>
- [3] BIS, International banking and financial market developments. BIS Quarterly Review: December 2008: page 20
- [4] Angela Balakrishnan, IMF chief issues stark warning on economic crisis. The Guardian: December 18, 2008: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2008/dec/16/imf-financial-crisis>
- [5] Military.com, Study: DoD May Act On US Civil Unrest. McClatchy-Tribune Information Services: December 29, 2008: <http://www.military.com/news/article/study-dod-may-act-on-us-civil-unrest.html>
- [6] Ibid.
- [7] Jason Burke, Eastern Europe braced for a violent 'spring of discontent'. The Observer: January 18, 2009: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jan/18/eu-riots-vilinius>
- [8] Philip P. Pan, Economic Crisis Fuels Unrest in E. Europe. The Washington Post: January 26, 2009: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/25/AR2009012502516.html>
- [9] Adrian Michaels, Europe's winter of discontent. The Telegraph: January 27, 2009: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/personal-view/4363750/Europes-winter-of-discontent.html>
- [10] Ian Traynor, Governments across Europe tremble as angry people take to the streets. The Guardian: January 31, 2009: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2009/jan/31/global-recession-europe-protests>
- [11] Ben Hall, French workers stage strike in protest at job losses and reforms. The Financial Times: January 29, 2009: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/71c25576-eda6-11dd-bd60-0000779fd2ac.html>

- [12] Roger Boyes, World Agenda: riots in Iceland, Latvia and Bulgaria are a sign of things to come. The Times: January 21, 2009: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article5559773.ece>
- [13] Paul Lewis, Britain faces summer of rage – police. The Guardian: February 23, 2009: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/feb/23/police-civil-unrest-recession>
- [14] Geraint Jones, MI5 Alert On Bank Riots. The Express: March 1, 2009: <http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/86981/MI5-alert-on-bank-riots>
- [15] Sam Jones, Jenny Percival and Paul Lewis, G20 protests: riot police clash with demonstrators. The Guardian: April 1, 2009: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/apr/01/g20-summit-protests>
- [16] Telegraph TV, G20 protests: Rioters loot RBS as demonstrations turn violent. The Telegraph: April 1, 2009: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/financetopics/g20-summit/5089870/G20-protests-Rioters-loot-RBS-as-demonstrations-turn-violent.html>
- [17] ITN, Police 'admit contact' with man killed at G20 protest. In The News: April 6, 2009: [http://www.inthenews.co.uk/news/health/crime/death-at-g20-police-silent-on-assault-reports-\\$1285968.htm](http://www.inthenews.co.uk/news/health/crime/death-at-g20-police-silent-on-assault-reports-$1285968.htm)
- [18] Henry Samuel, Riots across Europe fuelled by economic crisis. The Telegraph: May 1, 2009: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/5258634/Riots-across-Europe-fuelled-by-economic-crisis.html>
- [19] Ibid.
- [20] David Oakley, et. al., Europe fears rock global markets. The Financial Times: February 4, 2010: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a124518a-11cb-11df-b6e3-00144feab49a.html>
- [21] Stephen C. Webster, US intel chief: Economic crisis a greater threat than terrorism. Raw Story: February 13, 2009: http://rawstory.com/news/2008/US_intel_chief_Economic_crisis_greater_0213.html
- [22] Tom Philpott, MILITARY UPDATE: Official: Financial crisis a bigger security risk than wars. Colorado Springs Gazette: February 1, 2009: <http://www.gazette.com/articles/mullen-47273-military-time.html>
- [23] AFP, WTO chief warns of looming political unrest. AFP: February 7, 2009: http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gpC1Q4gXJfp6EwM1rMGrmA_a7ZA
- [24] Heather Scoffield, 'There will be blood'. The Globe and Mail: February 23, 2009: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/article973785.ece>
- [25] BBC, World Bank warns of social unrest. BBC News: May 24, 2009: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/8066037.stm>
- [26] Press TV, Economic Crisis: Brzezinski warns of riots in US. Global Research: February 21, 2009: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=12392>
- [27] John C. Freed, Economic Crisis Raises Fears of Extremism in Western Countries. The New York Times: May 6, 2009: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/07/world/europe/07poll.html>
- [28] WBEZ, Farrakhan Warns Obama of Civil Unrest. Chicago Public Radio: March 1, 2010: <http://www.wbez.org/Content.aspx?audioID=40331>
- [29] Evan Newmark, Mean Street: America's Coming Civil Unrest? The Wall Street Journal: March 8, 2010: <http://blogs.wsj.com/deals/2010/03/08/mean-street-americas-coming-civil-unrest/>
- [30] DCDC, The DCDC Global Strategic Trends Programme, 2007-2036, 3rd ed. The Ministry of Defence, January 2007: page 1
- [31] Ibid, page 3.
- [32] Ibid.
- [33] Ibid, page 81.
- [34] For a look at the co-opting of the French Revolution by elites, see: Andrew Gavin Marshall, Global Power and Global Government: Evolution and Revolution of the Central Banking System. Global Research: July 21, 2009: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=14464>; For a look at the relationship between the Russian Revolution and powerful banking and corporate interests in America and Europe, see: Andrew Gavin Marshall, Origins of the American Empire: Revolution, World Wars and World Order. Global Research: July 28, 2009: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=14552>
- [35] Rev. Martin Luther King, Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence. Speech delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on April 4, 1967, at a meeting of Clergy and Laity Concerned at Riverside Church in New York City: <http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/45a/058.html>

Andrew Gavin Marshall is a Research Associate with the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG). He is currently studying Political Economy and History at Simon Fraser University.

Andrew Gavin Marshall is a frequent contributor to Global Research.
Global Research [Articles](#) by Andrew Gavin Marshall
Global Research [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:01 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

Bob Chapman: The Dollar Rating Threatened

Your purchasing power is less and less with every passing day, changes coming to currencies, no end to corruption in government, Wall Street, and banking, US states on the verge of bankruptcy, economic and financial zombies on the old continent, globalization has brought us to the brink of collapse, Interest rate volatility to come soon, US debt far over GDP, property abandoned.

A Debt Level Great Enough To Threaten The Dollar Rating

by Bob Chapman [article link](#) [article link](#)

April 7 2010 The International Forecaster

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

Almost every day in almost any currency your purchasing power in terms of gold is less and less. Thus, these currencies in which you save the fruits of your labor are cheating you out of your savings.

The US dollar is particularly vulnerable because of its staggering debt even though it is the world reserve currency. In fact the debt is so onerous that we believe the quality rating of the dollar could be lowered by the end of the year. Many other currencies face the same dilemma and in the final analysis only gold will be worth what it is today or in the future.

Unless the US government expropriates Americans' retirement plans they won't be able to fund their sovereign debt. This situation is exacerbated by continued fiscal deficits of some \$1.8 trillion. **The administration and the Democratic Party are bound and determined to destroy America financially.** Between government, Wall Street and banking America is being destroyed. This did not just happen that way; it was planned that way. **When people discover what has been done to them there will probably be a revolution.**

Government spends excessively, as free trade and globalization keeps America under a staggering load of unemployment in what has become **a corporatist fascist nation** controlled by Wall Street and banking and run by Marxists, who for years have operated in the shadows as bureaucrats.

Many American states are on the edge of bankruptcy. Their only hope is massive layoffs and reduced services adding to the already massive unemployment that plagues our nation. The situation is close presently to resembling the 1930s and that is after trillions of dollars created out of thin air permeated the economy. Worse yet, nothing has been done deliberately to solve the problems. **One might think the antics of government; banking and Wall Street were deliberate-**

unfortunately they are. It won't be long before everything will be nationalized and corporatist fascism will be in full flower.

We now have medical health care reform that will cost hundreds of billions of dollars annually adding to a wildly growing deficit, which becomes more un-fundable every day. As you all know this legislation was passed illegally. As you all know this legislation was passed illegally and will be challenged in the Supreme Court. Can you imagine 2,700 pages that no one in Congress read, that was passed, so we could see what was in it. **Every Democrat deserves to be thrown out of office for this piece of criminality. Corruption in government, Wall Street and banking knows no end.** This in addition to the looting of funds for Social Security and Medicare, that the Treasury now must fund, when they cannot even fund current debt without having the Fed buy it with money created out of thin air. Talk about inflation – it is surely on the way. **If we use GAAP accounting, not the US government's cash figures, the deficit is really in the vicinity of \$4.5 to \$5 trillion, not \$1.8 trillion. This, of course, is nothing new and the same lying and secrecy is in force worldwide. All that people have saved worldwide has been stolen from them - they just do not know it yet.**

The phenomenon of government workers making far more than workers in industry has to end. Unionized workers make double private industry. Is it no wonder there is deficit spending to hold up this terrible financial burden. There is no end to the demands of these parasites that are sucking the public dry.

The situation in Europe is so bad that all of Europe is attacking Germany because they save and do not spend enough and their balance of payments surplus is obscene to other spenders not only in the euro zone, but in the entire EU as well. Their thought is Germany should be losers like we are. Then there are the PIIGS who care about little or nothing. We know we lived for years in all of these countries and fully understand where they are coming from. They all wanted socialism and it has doomed them, as has the euro zone and the European Union. They are about to discover socialism and debt are about to destroy them. You have made yourselves into economic and financial zombies. There is no one left to bail you out. Subsidizing everything doesn't work as they are soon to find out. **When Europe and America fail unfortunately they are going to in part take the entire world down with them – no one is going to be spared.**

What a world we now live in. Under the “healthcare” legislation everyone can now be “chipped,” so that government can soon catalog everything about you, so on demand they can control you. Hitler and Stalin didn't have the technology, but had they had it they would have used it, just as our Illuminist masters are about to do. Government wants to totally control your lives.

We have an economy in a state of collapse and part of the reason for that is free trade, globalization, offshoring and outsourcing, which since 2000 has cost America some 8 million good quality jobs. Where are you Smoot-Hawley now that we need you? **There are many reasons why the American economy is collapsing and free trade, British mercantilism, is one of them.**

As we have said for months there is a multilateral change coming in currencies. A massive devaluation of all currencies and a debt settlement between countries. When that happens consumers worldwide will lose 2/3's of their purchasing power on the final leg down into deflationary depression, which is probably 1-1/2 to 2 years away. Your only protection against such events is holding gold and silver related assets.

Those who have opted for general stock investments since 1998 have come out even if they were lucky and that includes massive market manipulation by our government. Not just failed policies. The creation in August 1988 of the President's Working Group on Financial Markets” has been a disaster for free markets and a gift to dictators and would be tyrants. **The markets are a giant scam and their underpinnings are about to collapse.** There has been little or no growth over those years. Real estate bubbles in residential and commercial markets have collapsed and the stock market will soon follow. Hitting you right in the forehead is almost a 4% yield on 10-year T-notes that could well become 5% by yearend, which we predicted late last year. That will put the 30-year fixed rate mortgage at 6-1/4% to 6-1/2%. What do you think that will do to real estate, markets and profits? This is mainly because of sovereign debt that grows exponentially every minute of every day. These pyromaniacs in the White House and Congress add to the conflagration all day every day. The result has been a 25% loss in the S&P since March of 2000, and a loss versus gold of 75%. Gold has risen from \$252 to \$1,224 and silver from \$3.50 to \$20.00 with massive government and Fed suppression. Where do you think your money should have been

and where your money should be? In gold and silver bullion, coins and shares. Yes, as usual we were crazy and we were right and we are going to continue to be right, because we understand what the Illuminists are up too.

You live in a bankrupt country, along with 18 other major bankrupts, and you will soon learn how you are going to lose everything you have worked a lifetime for. A rise in interest rates of 5% adds \$620 billion annually to the US debt in interest alone and that is rising exponentially. The US, nor any government, can survive such debt service.

We are calling inflation, real inflation, not the official variety of 3%, but at 8%. John Williams says on the things you buy every day it is 10%. We should easily see 14-5/8% inflation by the end of the year just as we did 2-1/2 years ago.

The Fed has ended its \$1.25 trillion program of buying toxic debt from lenders. We do not know if that is the correct figure, we do not know from whom they were purchased and we do not know what was paid for the MBS, because it is a secret. This purchase has put downward pressure on interest rates for the past 15 months. This is an abnormal procedure and it can be expected that interest rates would move higher. It also means that the fed will now be a seller in the market as the FDIC is attempting to be. If sold these securities will put downward pressure on these bonds and force higher rates in a market that is already subject to crowding out by the treasury. In addition, quantitative easing is being phased out, putting further upward pressure on rates. **The Fed if it continues these policies may stem hyperinflation but they run the distinct risk of having deflation run out of control, which could easily drive the economy into deflationary depression.** This is a super human feat we do not see being accomplished without major damage, at the least.

Rate volatility is going to increase dramatically, as the Fed works to hold the 10-year T-bill rate below 4%. This is what they did previously at great cost to savers and taxpayers.

As rates climb the dollar carry trade becomes much less attractive and as it is unwound borrowed money is pulled from other investments, such as bonds putting more upward pressure on rates and at the same time downward pressure on stocks, which have been purchased with borrowed money. If the Fed tightens, as they might on Wednesday, yields will move even higher. If that happens those in the carry trade and bonds and shares will see gains evaporate and sales of both bonds and stock will ensue, as the carry trade is unwound. This is what markets are now facing.

This takes us to municipal bonds and particularly California, which has \$85 billion in debt, that has to be paid by its citizens, of which about 40% do not pay any taxes. In addition it officially has 12.4% unemployment, which is really about 25% and getting worse daily. This is a state with \$1 trillion to \$3.5 trillion in unfunded pensions and the world's 8th largest economy. This is a state that, via federal subsidy, sold "Build America Bonds", bonds yielding 6.3%, or 2.4%, higher rates than Treasuries. **California is on the edge of bankruptcy** and their municipal bonds should be sold, as many from other states should be sold as well. **States won't work out of their problems for years.**

Last week the Dow rose 0.7%; S&P 1%, the Russell 2000 0.7% and the Nasdaq was unchanged. Banks rose 0.3%; broker/dealers 0.8%; cyclicals 0.8%; transports 1.2%; consumers 1.2%, as utilities fell 1.8%. High tech fell 0.3% as semis gained 1.1% and Internets fell 0.2%. Biotechs fell 0.2%; gold gained \$12.00; the HUI rose 6.2% and the USDIX fell 0.6% to 81.17.

Two-year Treasury bills rose 6 bps to 1.02%; the 10-year T-notes rose 10 bps to 3.95% and the 10-year German bund fell 7 bps to 3.08%.

The Freddie Mac 30-year fixed rate mortgage rose 9 bps to 5.08%; the 15's rose 5 bps to 4.39%; one-year ARMs fell 15 bps to 4.05% and jumbos rose 1 bps to 5.83%.

Fed credit declined \$7.4 billion. Fed foreign holdings of Treasury, Agency debt rose \$7.2 billion to a record of \$3.020 trillion. Custody holdings for foreign central banks increased \$64.5 billion just year-to-date, and year-on-year 15.7%.

M2 narrow money supply fell \$10 billion.

Total money market fund assets fell \$30 billion to \$2.983 trillion, the first time below \$3 trillion since 10/07. Year-to-date it is off \$311 billion and year-on-year it is off 22.2%.

Commercial paper fell \$5.2 billion, or 20.8% ytd and 24.9% yoy.

America's debt is now \$31 trillion, or 2-1/2 times US GDP. Americans on average only own 11% of their home the remainder is debt. Home prices are headed lower until 2013, so 20% lower prices are a certainty. In some areas homes have already fallen 60% to 75%. This situation will feed on itself for years and bankruptcies and inventory for sale will flourish for years. **About 45% of homes have mortgages. We wrote five years ago that the government wants to own and nationalize those homes, so they can control the public.**

As we wrote earlier **we expect another large stimulus plan soon and the Fed to reverse gears and flood the world with money sometime soon. This should be the last rescue and the result will be hyperinflation followed by collapse and a deflationary depression.** This is the last chance to buy gold and silver inexpensively.

If you do not think there was inflation in 2007 and 2008 homeowners insurance rose 24%, in 2008 it rose 31% and again in 2009-10 it rose 31%.

Treasury debt is on the ropes and is about to cause the Illuminists real trouble, along with higher interest rates. **Later this year or early next year debt as a percentage will reach 95%. From there on its collapse.** How can anyone conceive deficits of more than \$10 trillion over the next ten years?

The International Forecaster [home page](#)
Global Research [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:05 PM](#) [2 comments](#)

Ron Jacobs: Misrepresenting the Left

We Are Not Liberals!

Misrepresenting the Left

By RON JACOBS [article link](#)

April 7, 2010

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

Despite the current media-induced confusion, liberals are not leftists. This misconception is not only embarrassing to those of us who are genuinely leftist in our politics, it is also discrediting the Left. From the New York Times to FOX News, the portrayal of the US Democratic party and Barack Obama as leftist is creating a perception in the US populace that leftists are ineffective politicians who have no principles they won't modify. Of course, the Left has not done that great of a job explaining the situation in any other way, thereby leaving the way open for the misconceptions put forth by the media to appear as truth.

If one wants to know what a liberal is, they need only to look at The US Democratic Party. From Hilary Clinton to Dennis Kucinich, that party is in no way leftist. How can I say that? To begin with, liberals differ from leftists in fundamental ways. For starters, liberalism is founded on the sanctity of private property. According to John Locke, who is quite possibly the godfather of liberalism, it is the possession of property that gives humans their freedom. Indeed, in its early days, liberalism only saw freedom as being deserving to propertied males. While not disparaging the positive aspects of liberalism's early days--its opposition to monarchy and the role of the Church, to name two of the most important ones--it is crucial to acknowledge the shortcomings of a philosophy grounded in the ownership of property. Since the fact of private ownership was a qualification for entry into self-governance it obviously excluded many members of those societies where the politics of liberalism replaced the monarchy and the Church. Add to this fact the denial of political power to women and (in the newly created United States) the acceptance of slavery, and the shortcomings of liberalism as a

philosophy guaranteeing liberty and equality become glaringly obvious. It is understood by those that utilize a Marxist analysis to understand history that liberalism is a bourgeois philosophy, primarily because it protects the dominance of that class in those societies where it flourishes.

Of course, history does progress. The slave trade was eventually outlawed in Europe and suffered a bloody end in the United States. Women did eventually achieve political and economic power in those nations where liberalism is the underlying philosophical foundation of the regime. **This progress did not occur due to the graces of the ruling class, however. Of all the countries that fall under the liberal banner, France experienced the greatest upheavals on its way to eventual liberty for all of its citizens. The United States was close behind. Equality remains at best a promise.** The greatest challenges to liberalism were the twentieth century's two world wars. Yet, both of these wars were the result of liberalism's necessary relationship to the capitalist economy. World War I was the result of a rivalry between empires that had run out of new lands to conquer. Those empires then turned on each other in an attempt to steal each other's colonies. World War Two was a direct assault on the principles of liberalism by the totalitarian philosophy of fascism.

This brings us neatly to the historical moment when liberalism became identified with governmental intervention into the domestic economy in ways not seen before. Instead of helping only the wealthy and their corporations dominate the economy as in the past, liberals began to encourage the installation of governmental controls on unfettered capitalism. This did not happen because liberals were interested in destroying capitalism, but in saving it. The institutions of capital in much of the world were under heavy fire from workers and others in the years preceding World War Two. Unlike the conservative free marketeers in public life, liberals during the reign of FDR understood that the only way to save capitalism from what they considered the twin evils of Bolshevism and fascism was to institute programs that would guarantee working people work and some minimum financial security. Government programs designed to provide this minimal security were legislated under intense attacks from the free marketeers and were the result of years of strikes and other battles from the labor Left. It is reasonable to state that these safety net programs and the transformation of the US economy to a Keynesian model that relied heavily on the production and sale of war materials did save capitalism in the United States and, consequently, throughout much of the world. This also placed the United States into the role of the primary capitalist and imperialist power. This transformation did at least two things. It insured that war and the preparation for war would continue to be a growth industry for US business and it created a situation where US workers (mostly white males at the time) would be able to live a relatively good life in terms of income and job security, thanks to the intensified exploitation of labor forces in the developing world. It also allowed the liberal government to push through programs like Lyndon Johnson's Great Society and Medicare.

The peak of postwar liberalism in the US was the 1960s. Its greatest triumph was passing legislation that ended legal apartheid in the US and its greatest defeat was the defeat of US forces in Southeast Asia. The latter, which was presented to the world as a mission to bring the liberal ideals of liberty and equality to the people of that region of the world, was disproved. The actual conduct of the war exposed this presentation for the lie it was: a bloody and brutal attempt to destroy a nation and a people that bordered on genocide. It also gave the US Left, which was at its greatest popularity since the 1930s, the opportunity to expose the myth of liberalism. That is, that liberalism's ideals of liberty and equality could not be obtained under the economic machine of capitalism. This contradiction was apparent both in Vietnam and in the US, as the struggle for racial equality became an effort by the government to repress those individuals and groups dedicated to achieving that equality.

The post World War Two years of capitalist expansion were followed by years of contraction that began in the early 1970s (most agree that 1973 was the exact year). This created a fear among the capitalist class and its governmental sycophants that they might lose their position in the world. So, they began to cut back on labor costs, shipping operations to the non-union southern US and then overseas and reneging on retirement promises and health care contracts. At first, there were those among the liberal establishment in the US who stood with the workers and opposed these moves. However, by the time the ultraright administration of Ronald Reagan was out of office, it was almost impossible to find a liberal who would stand with striking workers. Indeed, it was getting pretty difficult to find a national union official who would stand with striking workers. The free marketeers were back on top and were once again in complete control of the economic policy of Washington. This period saw the rise of a new type of liberal (the neoliberals) to positions of power in the White House and throughout Washington. Neoliberal Bill Clinton campaigned on a promise to halt so-called free trade agreement known as NAFTA and then pushed it through Congress in his first years in office. NAFTA and other free trade agreements

were not about free trade, but about forcing already indebted nations of the developing world to accept US goods while destroying their own economies. At the same time, credit rules began to be loosened in the United States, resulting in the creation of untold billions of dollars that did not truly exist. Yet, as long as everyone from the individual getting a home loan to the World Bank forcing austerity measures on national governments believed that the money was good there was no apparent problem. The neoliberal model of world development--a model that encouraged dependence on US banks and corporations and espoused the philosophy that the free market would solve all social ills--reigned supreme.

As for the liberal political program, it became a mere shadow of its earlier self. No longer were society wide programs to eliminate poverty like the Great Society programs mentioned earlier considered. Instead, the liberals looked at such programs and destroyed them under the guise of reform. Perhaps the best example of this strategy can be found in Bill Clinton's Welfare Reform Act of 1996, a piece of legislation that took free marketeer Ronald Reagan's statement that people in the US were only poor by choice and made that statement policy. Even when it came to identity politics, the liberals were hesitant to push their belief in equality to far. Instead of demanding legislation insuring de jure equality for the LBGT community, the Clinton administration chose to institute ambiguous policies that clarified little and arguably caused more discrimination. In addition, during his campaign, Clinton borrowed from the racist Southern strategy of the GOP and attacked performer Sister Souljah for her statements about black resistance to white racists. An adjunct to this more conservative social stance could be seen in liberals public embrace of religious figures and politics. Bill Clinton and the Democratic Party also supported the 1995 legislation increasing the number of federal offenses that could result in the death penalty while further militarizing the nation's police forces. The US military attack on Yugoslavia in 1999 that came after forcing the Belgrade government to accept a peace agreement that guaranteed war was the final act in a reign that reminded everyone on the left that liberalism exists to defend the interests of the bourgeoisie.

The Left believes in justice. According to most liberals, so do they. **However, the Left also believes that there can not be genuine justice for all unless there is economic justice for all. To put it briefly, human rights can not exist for all regardless of class until economic inequality is addressed and minimized. Ideally, this means that the motivation of profit is eliminated altogether.** It does not deny the right of people to own their own property, but it does deny those who would profit from letting others use that property through rent. Unlike liberalism, leftists publicly acknowledge the fundamental nature economics plays in how political structures operate. This doesn't mean that liberals don't understand the essential role capitalism plays in maintaining the liberal state in all its guises, it just means that **leftists know that to lessen the inequalities that exist under capitalism, it is necessary to change it with the eventual goal of ending its predominant role in determining social relations.** In short, leftists understand that capitalism is a fundamental source of social inequalities, while liberals tend to believe that, if capitalism cannot cure those inequities, it can surely help lessen them. This belief exists despite the historical empirical evidence that the opposite is true.

If one looks at history, it seems apparent that leftism arose in response to the failings of the original liberal projects of the French revolution and the American war for independence. Both of these catalytic events did at least two important things. They ended the power of the monarchy and put the newly forming bourgeois class in power. Meanwhile, the peasants and the growing industrial working class discovered that the ideals of liberty and equality did not apply to them. In fact, their unequal status in relation to the bourgeoisie was essential to the rule of that class. This realization created a need for a different political philosophy that progressed beyond the principles of the French Revolution. Like the philosophy of that revolution, this newer philosophy was born from the experience of the oppressed. It found its most complete expression in the pens of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

Liberals fear the end of capitalism and therefore will not support those who desire to undermine it. This is why they supported the Cold War. It is why they support the establishment of a client state in Iraq and one of the reasons why they support Israel. It is why they support the expansion of the US war in Afghanistan. It is why they support a health care bill that is not single payer but supportive of the insurance industry. It is why Barack Obama had no doubts when he bailed out Wall Street. The musician Phil Ochs said it like this in his 1965 song "Love Me, Love Me I'm a Liberal."

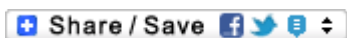
But don't talk about revolution
That's going a little bit too far
So love me, love me, love me, I'm a liberal...

There's no one more red, white and blue
So love me, love me, love me, I'm a liberal

Like liberals, there are several varieties of leftists. All, however, share an understanding that capitalism is an essentially unfair economic system that rewards those who already have capital much more frequently than those who just work their tails off. **They also understand that capitalism needs wars to survive and requires inequality to function. This is why they oppose it.** As stated before, liberals have a much rosier view of capitalism and have historically been willing to do whatever it takes to save it. So, while they may be the Left's occasional allies, they are not the Left, no matter how many times FOX News and the New York Times say they are.

Ron Jacobs is author of [The Way the Wind Blew: A History of the Weather Underground](#), which is just republished by Verso. Jacobs' essay on Big Bill Broonzy is featured in CounterPunch's collection on music, art and sex, Serpents in the Garden. His first novel, [Short Order Frame Up](#), is published by Mainstay Press. He can be reached at: rjacobs3625@charter.net

CounterPunch [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:09 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Leonard Pitts Jr.: An Evil With Many Masters

An Evil With Many Masters

by Leonard Pitts Jr. [article link](#) [article link](#)

Published on Wednesday, April 7, 2010 by The Miami Herald
(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

A few words about Christian terrorism.

And I suppose the first words should be about those words: "Christian terrorism." The term will seem jarring to those who've grown comfortable regarding terrorism as something exclusive to Islam.

That this is a self-deluding fallacy should have long since been apparent to anyone who's been paying attention. From Eric Rudolph's bombing of the Atlanta Olympics, a gay nightclub and two abortion clinics to the so-called Phineas Priests who bombed banks, a newspaper and a Planned Parenthood office in Spokane, from Matt Hale soliciting the murder of a federal judge in Chicago to Scott Roeder's assassination of abortion provider Dr. George Tiller, from brothers Matthew and Tyler Williams murdering a gay couple near Redding, Calif., to Timothy McVeigh destroying a federal building and 168 lives in Oklahoma City, **we have seen no shortage of "Christians" who believe Jesus requires -- or at least allows -- them to commit murder.**

If federal officials are correct, we now have one more name to add to the dishonor roll. That name would be **Hutaree**, a self-styled Christian militia in Michigan, nine members of which have been arrested and accused of plotting to kill police officers in hopes of sparking an anti-government uprising.

Many of us would doubtless resist referring to plots like this as Christian terrorism, feeling it unfair to tar the great body of Christendom with the actions of its fringe radicals. And here, we will pause for Muslim readers to loudly clear their throats.

While they do, let the rest of us note that there is a larger moral to this story, and it has less to do with terminologies than similarities.

We are conditioned to think of terror wrought by Islamic fundamentalists as something strange and alien and other. It is the violence of men with long beards who jabber in weird languages and kill for mysterious reasons while worshipping God in ways that seem outlandish to middle-American sensibilities. And whatever quirk of nature or deficiency of humanity it is

that allows them to do what they do, is, we think, unique. There is, we are pleased to believe, a hard, immutable line between us and Them.

Then you consider Hutaree and its alleged plan to kill in the name of God, and the idea of some innate, saving difference between us and those bearded others in other places begins to feel like a fiction we conjured to help us sleep at night.

"Preparing for the end time battles to keep the testimony of Jesus Christ alive," it says on Hutaree's website. And you wonder: Who is this Jesus they worship and in what Bible is he found? Why does he bear so little resemblance to the Jesus others find in their Bibles, the one who said that if someone hits you on your right cheek, offer him your left, the one who said if someone forces you to go one mile with him, go two, the one who said love your enemies.

Why does their Jesus need the help of men in camo fatigues with guns and bombs? In this, he is much like the Allah for whom certain Muslims blow up marketplaces and crowded buses. **Muslim and American terrorists, it seems, both apparently serve a puny and impotent God who can't do anything without their help.**

Sometimes, I think the only things that keep us from becoming, say, Afghanistan, are a strong central government and a diverse population with a robust tradition of free speech. The idea that there is something more is a conceit that blows apart like confetti every time there is, as there is now, a sense of cultural dislocation and economic uncertainty. That combination unfailingly moves people out to the fringes where they seek out scapegoats and embrace that feeble God. And watching, you can't help but realize the troubling truth about that line between "us" and "Them."

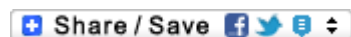
It's thinner than you think.

-- Leonard Pitts Jr.

Copyright 2010 Miami Herald Media Co.

Miami Herald [home page](#)

Common Dreams [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:50 PM](#) [1 comments](#)

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

[Sara Robinson: Guilty of Sedition?](#)

Guilty of Sedition? How the Right Is Undermining Our Government's Authority and Capability to Run the Country

By Sara Robinson, Campaign for America's Future [article link](#)

Posted on April 6, 2010, Printed on April 6, 2010

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

Sedition: Crime of creating a revolt, disturbance, or violence against lawful civil authority with the intent to cause its overthrow or destruction -- Britannica Concise Dictionary

Well, finally. It's high time somebody had the guts to say the S-word -- sedition -- right out loud.

When the [indictments](#) against the Hutaree were unsealed last week, the S-word was right there, front and center, in Count One. The Justice Department accused them of "seditious conspiracy," charging that the defendants "did knowingly conspire, confederate, and agree with each other and other persons known and unknown... to levy war against the United States, and to prevent, hinder, and delay by force the execution of any United States law."

This is very serious stuff. But the Hutaree are getting nailed for sedition only because they crossed the line with inches to spare. They're by no means the only ones. **Advocating, encouraging, and sanctioning sedition is the new norm on the conservative side.**

We saw it again last Thursday, when the [Guardians of the Free Republics](#) -- a Sovereign Citizen group that believes that the oath of office taken by state governors is invalid under their twisted Bizarroland interpretation of the Constitution -- sent letters to most or all sitting state governors telling them to either a) take what they consider to be a legitimate oath of office; b) stand down; or c) or be removed "non-violently" within three days. The FBI, rightly, regards this as a potentially seditious threat against the governors.

These two events are a wake-up call for progressives. They're telling us that it's time to openly confront the fact that conservatives have spent the past 40 years systematically delegitimizing the very idea of US government. When they're in power, they mismanage it and defund it. When they're out of power, they refuse to participate in running the country at all -- indeed, they throw all their energy into thwarting the democratic process any way they can. When they need to win an election, they use violent, polarizing, eliminationist language against their opponents to motivate their base. This is sedition in slow motion, a gradual corrosive undermining of the government's authority and capability to run the country. And it's been at the core of their politics going all the way back to Goldwater.

This long assault has gone into overdrive since Obama's inauguration, as the rhetoric has ratcheted up from overheated to perfervid. **We've reached the point where you can't go a week without hearing some prominent right wing leader calling for outright sedition -- an immediate and defiant populist uprising against some legitimate form of government authority.**

Moderates and liberals are responding to this rising threat with feckless calls for "a return to civility," as all that's needed to put things right again is a stern talking-to from [Miss Manners](#). Though that couldn't hurt, the sad fact is that we're well past the point where it's just a matter of conservatives behaving like tantrum-throwing spoiled brats (though they are). **When a mob is surrounding your house with torches and telling you they intend to burn it down, "civility" really isn't the issue any more.**

At that point -- and we're there -- criminal intent and action become the real issues. Progressives need to realize that the right began defiantly dancing back and forth over the legal line, daring us to do something about it, quite some time ago. And it's high time we called it out -- and, where appropriate, start prosecuting it -- for exactly what it is.

What is Sedition?

Before we start throwing around inflammatory terms like "sedition," it's essential that we understand the strict definition of the word -- and use it carefully and precisely, lest it lose all meaning.

(That's what happened with the word "fascism," which has been distorted into meaninglessness by hyperbolic overuse on the left and willful redefinition on the right. Once a word is abused to death this way, it's very hard to recapture it and restore its original meaning. And that's no small thing, because losing the word makes it functionally impossible to even discuss the political idea the word represents. Worse: as Orwell told us, when we no longer have the language to describe what we're dealing with, we also lose our ability to deal effectively with fascism at all. That's a real danger with loaded words -- so, please, let's be extremely careful about how we brandish this one.)

Here's the defining line we need to hold on to. **People who promote subversive ideas, no matter how dangerous those ideas might seem, are completely protected under the First Amendment.** Even calling for the overthrow of the government is protected (though not benign, as we'll see later, because it creates justification, permission, and incitement to seditious acts). That's why the conservatives have been safe -- so far.

It's only when those people start actively planning and implementing a government rebellion that it turns into criminal sedition. In this case: the weird rantings on [the Hutaree website](#) -- not seditious. The group's allegedly operational

plans to assassinate a police officer, ambush the resulting funeral, and thus bring on a national militia uprising -- absolutely seditious, if the charges stick.

This bright-line distinction, which has been part of American sedition law for the past 50 years, parallels closely the [line drawn by terrorism analysts](#) in sussing out which groups are benign and which ones are headed for trouble. **As I've noted before, one of the cardinal signs these experts watch and listen for is a fundamental shift in rhetoric.** In the early stages of dissent, groups establish the lines of conflict by obsessively focusing on their enemies and loudly denouncing their essential evilness. You hear this kind of talk in politics all the time these days. It's always ugly, but not inherently dangerous.

But in the latter stage, the talk turns overtly eliminationist, and the group starts expressing its clear desire and intention to eradicate specific enemies. When they shift to that second stage, it's a sign that they have mentally committed themselves to violent action, and are more likely to be actively acquiring arms, selecting targets, and getting ready to act in the near future. When a group enters this planning stage in an attack on government offices or officials, they've officially crossed the line into sedition.

Sedition on The Right

Openly advocating acts of sedition has become the conservatives' main political stock in trade over the past year. (The SPLC offers a strong summary [here](#).) You hear it everywhere from Rush to Glenn to Michelle Malkin to Michelle Bachman. Everybody on the right is now roundly convinced that the fairly-elected President of the United States isn't even a citizen. He's a Muslim, and thus in treasonous league with terrorists. The main goal of his administration is to turn the country over to the One World Government. He's a socialist. He's a fascist. **All of these are direct attacks on Obama's fundamental legitimacy and authority to lead the country -- and thus a deliberate incitement to revolt against his administration.**

These narratives are coupled with a rising us-versus-them blaming of progressives for all the problems of the country. These days, the screeds typically sound like free-market fundamentalists freebasing Hitler: they're clouded over with the typical eliminationist vitriol that reduces liberals to subhuman vermin that must be violently exterminated from the body politic in order to restore the virtue of the country. (For those who groove on that sort of thing, there's even a slight dash of anti-Semitism in the mix.) **This is dangerous stuff. And in the context of the conservatives' longstanding effort to delegitimize the government, it's also an open invitation to sedition.**

This seditious intent is expressed even more directly in the increasingly overt firearms displays at right-wing events. The media took to their fainting couches, aghast, when a small handful of people showed up packing heat at last summer's Tea Party disruptions. Now, we've advanced the point where not one, but two, 100% gun-toting marches on Washington, DC are planned for this coming April 19. Their organizers are hoping the marches will draw tens of thousands of armed protestors. Get used to seeing guns in the streets wherever the law allows -- because the conservatives have told their base explicitly that they need to be "exercising their rights" on this front to the fullest extent. The right to carry guns in public is now an essential symbol of how the right defines freedom.

These escalating armed demonstrations, accompanied by belligerent sloganeering, are a clear signal that these folks are done talking -- and, worse, have already decided that democracy is futile, and taking up arms is the only appropriate response to the threats we now face. They're carrying weapons to scare us weak-kneed girly libs into submission, and to show us they mean business. Growing up in gun country, I was taught at my daddy's knee that when someone says they're going to shoot you, it's always a good idea to take them at their word and handle yourself accordingly. Right now, I think that's good advice for anybody in America who considers themselves a member of the reality-based community.

But it's not just armed individuals. They're also forming more and more armed groups, which are gearing up for a fight. For the past five years, armed Minutemen have been usurping the job of the US Border Patrol. And within the past year, [according to the SPLC](#), the number of right-wing militias has more than doubled to over 500, many of which present themselves as [alternative law-enforcement posses](#) that are adjunct to the ones staffed by the county sheriffs.

What these folks are telling us is that they no longer recognize the government's sole franchise on the use of force; and they're actively organizing to seize at least some of that power for themselves.

Most alarming of all: these right-wing warriors have also advanced to actual target acquisition. This should worry us, because law enforcement and terrorism experts know that when groups like this get to where they're settling on specific targets, they're the final stages of gearing up for violent confrontation.

When Bernard Goldberg wrote a book listing the "100 people who are destroying America" -- which included some government officials -- he was writing a target list with seditious intent. (And [at least one guy](#) took him up on it, in his own deranged way.)

When the "spiritual warriors" of the [Transformations movement](#) proudly announce that they've mapped every town in America -- literally creating target maps of "demonic activity" that pinpoint government offices, non-Evangelical houses of worship, clinics, theaters, Indian mounds and sites; or even just households with Muslims, neo-pagans, Goth-baby teenagers, or Obama stickers on their cars -- they're putting us on notice that they've identified the specific people and places that need to be "cleansed" in order to purify their communities. According to researchers Rachel Tabachnik and Bruce Wilson, these "[transformation](#)" attempts have already become government-level issues in New Jersey, Arizona, [Texas](#), and Hawaii.

At present, they claim that they're only mapping their neighborhoods so they can pray over us all; and their attempts to take over local government are being done by purely democratic means. But, as has often happened before (yes, the Nazis started out just this way), the day may come when they'll decide that mere prayer and organizing is not enough. Like any street gang, they've taken proprietary responsibility for a piece of turf; and they believe God is holding them accountable for everything that happens there. The resulting performance pressure is a perfect setup to justify more aggressive cleansing tactics if they can't convert the town by peaceful means.

And some of these groups have already effectively crossed the line, in spirit if not in prosecutable fact. When the **Christian dominionists** train up "[Joel's Army](#)" by sending their sons to the US armed services so they can get the combat experience they'll need to set up a worldwide theocracy, that's evidence of an active plan to effect an armed government takeover. When **senior US military officers** put their commitment to Jesus ahead of their commitment to uphold the Constitution and regard the military as [God's force in the world](#), we should be very afraid.

For years now, we've dismissed all of this as crazy talk, the rantings of a loony fringe that will never get enough traction to become a material threat to our democracy. But we're well past the point where it's no longer quaint and funny, or an embarrassing breach of democratic etiquette that polite people should just ignore.

It's time to confront the sobering fact that the entire right wing -- including the GOP establishment, which encourages, endorses, and echoes these sentiments almost every time its officials appear in public -- is now issuing nearly constant invitations to criminal sedition. They're creating a climate and using language that emboldens the handful of sociopaths in our midst who are always spoiling for a fight. They've given their newly-expanded corps of flying monkeys permission to brandish their guns in public, empowered their militias, promised them glory, and are now telling them explicitly which targets to hit.

We'd be idiots not to regard this as an overt threat. Especially when they keep telling us, very explicitly, that they mean it to be. When somebody says they're going to shoot you, believe them.

We need to start talking about this for what it is, and calling it out whenever it happens. [Leonard Zeskind points out](#) that the feds have never been able to make a sedition charge stick against a right-wing group (if the Hutaree are convicted, it'll be a first); but the first step in stopping sedition is making sure everybody knows exactly what it is when they see it. **And that means calling out the S-word every time we see the conservatives defiantly flinging their hands and feet out over that line to score a few cheap political points.**

[The challenge I once threw down on the conservatives](#) still stands. **Do they want a civil war? Are they out to overthrow the US government?**

If this is just political grandstanding to energize the base, they're playing with fire, and they need to bring this incendiary campaign to a screeching halt. Right now. This Mickey Mouse pussyfooting around, play-acting at sedition is criminally dangerous chickenshit politics that puts the short-term needs of the Republican party ahead of the long-term viability of the American democracy they've sworn to uphold. **In case the party leaders haven't noticed, their base has taken them as seriously as a heart attack -- and they're genuinely making ready for armed revolt.**

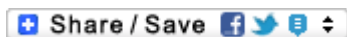
On the other hand, if seditious overthrow is what they intend, let them stand up, follow through, and face the charges. **They're either Americans, committed to working in good faith within the democratic process to create our common future; or else they're seditionists in intention or fact -- and thus enemies of the state, plain and simple.**

For the good of the country, we cannot continue to let them have it both ways. They need to choose whose side they're on: America's, or their own.

Sara Robinson is a Fellow at the [Campaign for America's Future](#), and a consulting partner with the [Cognitive Policy Works](#) in Seattle. One of the few trained social futurists in North America, she has blogged on authoritarian and extremist movements at [Orcinus](#) since 2006, and is a founding member of [Group News Blog](#).

© 2010 Campaign for America's Future All rights reserved.

AlterNet [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:39 PM](#) [1 comments](#)

Monday, April 5, 2010

[Manipulation of the Currency, Precious Metals, and Bond Markets](#)

Manipulation of the Currency, Precious Metals, and Bond Markets

London Bullion Market Assoc. Fraud - Leveraged 100 to 1

Andrew Maguire & Adrian Douglas

KWN Interview [broadcast page](#) [download mp3](#)

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

Andrew Maguire & Adrian Douglas: Discuss What Could Be the Largest Fraud in History - **Andrew is an independent metals trader turned whistleblower at the center of a storm for exposing what could be the largest fraud in history involving countries, banks and government leaders.** Adrian Douglas Board of Director from GATA, the man who Andrew reached out to joins in this interview where they discuss a fraud so extraordinary and so unimaginable that it is the kind of thing that only happens in hollywood thrillers. They also discuss the CFTC sponsored meeting on metals which was an unmitigated disaster because it additionally exposed the fraud on a grander scale.

GATA

KWN Interview [broadcast page](#) [download mp3](#)

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

In this interview with GATA we continue the saga after just having interviewed Andrew Maguire, the whistleblower out of London. This gives a short and long-term view down the rabbit hole through the eyes of 3 of the GATA board members.

GATA was so heavily involved not only in breaking the news at the CFTC meeting about the the metals manipulation but also at the same time quite possibly uncovering the largest fraud in history. **The Gold Anti-Trust Action Committee was organized in January 1999 to advocate and undertake litigation against illegal collusion to control the price and supply of gold and related financial securities.** The committee arose from essays by Bill Murphy, a financial commentator, and by Chris Powell, a newspaper editor in Connecticut, published at Murphy's Internet site, lemetropolecafe.com. In this GATA Roundtable we will have Bill Murphy, Chris Powell and Adrian Douglas.

King World News Broadcasts [home page](#)

The Daily Bell

Exclusive Interview William Murphy [article link](#)

Sunday, April 04, 2010 - with Scott Smith

William Murphy Explains his Testimony at the Recent CFTC Hearing and the Future of Precious Metals Markets

Excerpts

... "The Gold Anti-Trust Action Committee (GATA) was formed in January 1999 to expose and oppose the manipulation and suppression of the price of gold. What we have learned over the past 11 years is of great importance in regard to this hearing on position limits in the precious metals futures markets. Our efforts to expose manipulation in the gold market parallel those of Harry Markopolos to expose the Madoff Ponzi scheme to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"Initially we thought that the manipulation of the gold market was undertaken as a coordinated profit scheme by certain bullion banks, like JPMorgan, Chase Bank, and Goldman Sachs, and that it violated federal and state anti-trust laws. **But we soon discerned that the bullion banks were working closely with the U.S. Treasury Department and Federal Reserve in a gold cartel, part of a broad scheme of manipulation of the currency, precious metals, and bond markets.**" ...

... The bullion banks work with the Fed/Treasury to keep gold and silver excitement to a minimum. Gold has been up 10 years in a row because The Gold Cartel has orchestrated a managed retreat. For example the cabal traders have their 2% Rule, which is the maximum they have allowed gold to up this year during a Comex trading session. This has occurred 7 times already since January 1.

On a day-to-day basis, The Gold Cartel uses physical gold supply, fed into physical market via surreptitious swap or lending operations, and then uses their concentrated power in the derivatives markets to cap the price and then to terrorize the longs and flush them out when they are ready to attack.

A perfect example is the recent April option expiry. The price of gold collapsed before the April option expiry from \$1126 to \$1085. Now that the expiry is over and the April call options expired worthless, the price is back to \$1126 again. It was a two week round turn. ...

... **Wall Street loathes gold because when the price is soaring, it is bad for business.** Every time the gold price explodes, the press/analysts explain the rise due to inflation, crisis of sorts, terrible dollar action, rising interest rates, etc ... so it's not good for their stock and bond markets. If you look at their price forecasts the past decade, most of the Wall Street firms have been neutral to bearish all the way up, and still are.

However, the only firms that will face some heavy angst are those doing the manipulation like JPM and HSBC. Goldman Sachs used to be the ringleader of the gold price suppression scheme. However, they are nowhere to be found these days and are actually one of the few Wall Street firms which has a bullish price forecast for gold. Just a few years ago they were short as much as 50,000 contracts on the TOCOM (Tokyo futures market). ...

... There is a zero chance it will not be stopped because **The Gold Cartel will run out of enough ammunition (available central bank gold) to meet the annual supply/demand deficit.** For the last 15 years they have required an average of an extra 1,000 tons per year to keep the price under control. It is commonly said by the mainstream gold world that the central banks have 30,000 tons of gold. The work of GATA consultants Reg Howe, James Turk and Frank Veneroso suggest that central banks actually have fewer than 15,000 tons. This is why The Gold Cartel is running out of ammunition.

At GATA's May 2001 GATA African Gold Summit in Durban, South Africa Frank Veneroso said that the central banks would run out of enough central bank gold to dump on the market in 7 to 10 years. The European central banks were selling 400 to 500 tons per year for the last decade ... until a few months ago. The last few months they haven't sold an ounce. The tide is turning. ...

The Daily Bell [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:51 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Patrick Martin: A Million Innocent Civilians Killed

Former IAEA Chief: Iraq War Killed “A Million Innocent Civilians”

By Patrick Martin [article link](#) [article link](#)

April 03, 2010 "WSWS"

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

The former head of the UN's chief nuclear agency, **Mohammed ElBaradei, said in an interview with the British newspaper Guardian Wednesday that those who launched the war in Iraq were responsible for killing a million innocent people and could be held accountable under international law. He was clearly referring to US President George Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and their top military and security aides.**

It was his first interview with an international publication since ElBaradei returned to his native Egypt, after **a decade heading the International Atomic Energy Agency**, where he won the **Nobel Peace Prize**, in large measure because of his opposition to the efforts by the Bush administration to use concocted charges about “weapons of mass destruction” as an all-purpose pretext for military intervention throughout the Middle East.

“I would hope that the lessons of Iraq, both in London and in the US have started to sink in,” he told the Guardian. “Sure, there are dictators, but are you ready every time you want to get rid of a dictator to sacrifice a million innocent civilians? **All the indications coming out of [the Chilcot inquiry in Britain] are that Iraq was not really about weapons of mass destruction but rather about regime change, and I keep asking the same question—where do you find this regime change in international law? And if it is a violation of international law, who is accountable for that?”**

This suggestion that Bush and Blair were guilty of war crimes, coming from a high-ranking former UN official, would ordinarily be considered major news. **The Guardian interview was reported by the main British and French news agencies, Reuters and AFP, but the entire American corporate media gave it zero coverage. Not a single major American newspaper or television network mentioned it.**

The discussion of the violation of international law in launching the Iraq war came in the course of a longer discussion of the bankruptcy of US-British foreign policy in the Muslim world. ElBaradei criticized the longstanding support of Washington for dictators like Mubarak. “The idea that the only alternative to authoritarian regimes is Bin Laden and Co. is a fake one, yet continuation of current policies will make that prophecy come true.”

He warned of “increasing radicalization” in the Arab world: “People feel repressed by their own governments, they feel unfairly treated by the outside world, they wake up in the morning and who do they see—they see people being shot and killed, all Muslims from Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Darfur.”

“Western policy towards this part of the world has been a total failure, in my view,” he said. “It has not been based on dialogue, understanding, supporting civil society and empowering people, but rather it’s been based on supporting authoritarian systems as long as the oil keeps pumping.”

ElBaradei warned of the hypocrisy and double standard of Western policy. “The West talks a lot about elections in Iran, for example, but at least there were elections,” he said. “Yet where are the elections in the Arab world? If the West doesn’t talk about that, then how can it have any credibility?”

ElBaradei is now reportedly considering a presidential bid against 81-year-old President Hosni Mubarak, whose fifth six-year term expires next year. He clearly hopes that Western pressure will compel Mubarak to permit a more robust opposition campaign than during the last presidential election, when the largest opposition party, the Muslim Brotherhood, was barred from standing a candidate, and Ayman Nour, the bourgeois liberal candidate who finished second, was jailed for alleged petition fraud.

Speaking to a British newspaper, **ElBaradei was in essence warning his old patrons, the major European powers, of the counterproductive character of Western policy, particularly that of the United States.** “When you see that the most popular people in the Middle East are Ahmadinejad and Hassan Nasrallah [leader of Hezbollah], that should send you a message: that your policy is not reaching out to the people,” he said.

He also took note of the extreme social tension in Egypt, where the vast majority of the population lives in crushing poverty. The Guardian account reads: “In Egypt the rich live in ghettos,” he said, waving his hand at the beautifully manicured garden, complete with pool. “The gap in social justice here is simply indescribable.”

In addition to the US media blackout of the interview, the Guardian engaged in apparent self-censorship. The initial article appeared at 6:01 GMT on the Guardian web site, including the implicit reference to Bush and Blair violating international law. It is [here](#).

Just over two hours later, that article had been replaced by a longer profile of ElBaradei, containing additional comments about the political situation in Egypt. **But the reference to the Chilcot inquiry and the killing of one million innocent people had been excised.** The revised article is [here](#).

Copyright © 1998-2010 World Socialist Web Site - All rights reserved

Information Clearing House [home page](#)
World Socialist Web Site (WSWS) [home page](#)

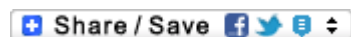
Ten Things You Can Do to Help Progressive Journalism

By ZP Heller [article link](#) [article link](#)

Posted on April 2, 2010, Printed on April 5, 2010 The Nation

The Nation [home page](#)

AlterNet [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:25 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Aaron Lake Smith: Court of Chancery

Corporate Court Acting in Secret, Citizens Locked Out

By Aaron Lake Smith [article link](#)

Posted on April 2, 2010, Printed on April 5, 2010 AlterNet

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

Last week, the state of Delaware radically altered the playing field between corporations and consumers by offering to hear lawsuits against Fortune 500 companies under conditions of secrecy, for a fee. Instead of receiving an open hearing before the general public, the Delaware News Journal reports that the **Delaware Chancery Court's new "fast-track" system** will allow disputes involving the state's tremendous cache of corporations to be considered in a private backroom meeting, not with a jury, but with a special jurist known as a chancellor.

In this new form of arbitration, the chancellor will act as a hired consultant, listening to both sides of an argument and dispatching a private ruling within 90 days. **Although this new judicial innovation in the state that houses 60 percent of the nation's publicly traded companies has not raised the same uproar as the U.S. Supreme Court's infamous Citizens United decision, the new law has equally ominous implications for the future of American democracy.**

Most ordinary citizens have never even heard of the **Court of Chancery**, but among America's executive class, the Chancery has long been a prized legal venue thanks to its pro-business, pro-management rulings. The Delaware Chancery Court has been consistently rated the #1 court in the country by corporate lawyers and the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce \(PDF\)](#). **Combined with the state's lax corporate governance regulations, the Chancery is one of the prime reasons so many companies chose to incorporate in Delaware.** When boards and CEOs are threatened with shareholder lawsuits and hostile mergers, they're competing with a home-court advantage in the pro-business Chancery. The Chancery is also notoriously hostile to federal agencies of every stripe that might penalize the state's corporate class—intemperate even to CEO-friendly agencies like the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The 200-year-old and entirely juryless Chancery is one of the most powerful judicial bodies in the country, a holdover from the British Empire that most other states had abandoned by the 18th century. Instead of judges or juries, the Chancery is chaired by a set of chancellors and vice-chancellors, each appointed by the Delaware governor to serve out a 12-year term making what equates to the national policy toward big business. William T. Quillen, former Delaware chancellor, attributes Delaware's throwback judicial system to the state's "basic conservatism."

The court's homogeneity is astounding—all the chancellors come from corporate law backgrounds, mainly from the firms of Morris, Nichols and Skadden Arps, and there has never been a chancellor of color.

The Delaware chancellors have consistently played the legal rear-guard in the executive compensation debate. Since most companies are incorporated in Delaware, just about every dispute over CEO pay ends up playing out in the Chancery. In a landmark 1996 decision, the Chancery rejected a Disney shareholder lawsuit and allowed a former president Michael Ovitz to walk away with \$140 million in severance. Since then, the Chancery has continued to shield the corporate management that provide their court with its *raison d'être*, and have swatted away lawsuit after lawsuit from citizens and "activist shareholders"—those with the audacity to demand that companies they own act in their own interests.

In 2009, the Chancery had its chance to weigh in on the financial crisis when Citigroup faced down a major shareholder lawsuit. Shareholders alleged the board of the company had shunted its responsibility to investors, failing to recognize and manage risky subprime investments. Citigroup, of course, was so poorly managed that the company needed to beg for \$45 billion in direct bailouts under the Troubled Asset Relief Program, and received hundreds of billions more in indirect government guarantees. But instead of acknowledging any wrongdoing by a team of executives that had turned their company into a ward of the state, the Chancery sided with management, issuing a dismissive shoulder-shrug of a ruling.

Chancellor Chandler wrote of the shareholder lawsuit, "When one looks past the lofty allegations of duties of oversight and red flags used to dress up these claims, what is left appears to be plaintiff shareholders attempting to hold director

defendants personally liable for making (or allowing to be made) business decisions that, in hindsight, turned out poorly for the Company."

Tiny, Napoleonic Delaware has never had much in the way of natural endowments, but the state's cutthroat cleverness has allowed it to flourish at the expense of its neighbors. Delaware has a long history of treating government as a business and undercutting the competition—other U.S. states.

At the turn of the century, New Jersey was nationally considered to be the "Corporate State," providing a safe haven for the massive trusts of the Gilded Age, which mostly operated out of New York. In 1899, Delaware silently enacted a carbon copy of New Jersey's business laws, and in 1913, fortune smiled on Delaware with a gift from Woodrow Wilson. As one of his final acts as the governor of New Jersey before assuming the presidency, Wilson pushed through rigorous anti-trust legislation called the "Seven Sisters," that promised to clampdown on the robber barons and promote what he called a "new era in business life."

But rather than sparking more stringent regulation of the large, often economically abusive trusts, the Seven Sisters laws caused companies to flee en masse into the arms of nearby Delaware, which provided a business safe haven. **Today, the majority of Fortune 500 companies are incorporated in Delaware. The nation's credit card and finance industry remains based in Wilmington, where among many advantages, companies enjoy a fast-and-loose incorporation process and what is widely considered to be an open and "accessible" state legislature.** (In Delaware, anyone, even non-U.S. citizens, can get incorporated 24 hours a day. One only has to pay a special fee.) **Additionally, Delaware's generous tax code allows companies to hide intangible assets from the IRS, making the state the closest thing we have to a tax haven on U.S. soil.** When I asked one former Delaware state official what the difference between Delaware and the Cayman Islands was, he laughed and said, "We speak English."

In recent years, Delaware has seen its significant advantage as the nation's corporate safe haven noticeably diminished as the deregulatory zeitgeist has gone federal. Other states have attempted to undercut Delaware in what amounts to a slash-and-burn race to the bottom to woo fickle industries inside their borders. Cash- and job-strapped states are practically standing out on the street corner, displaying their corporate incentive packages, desperately hoping that a limo with a Fortune 500 executive will drive by, pick them up and rescue their economy.

Much of the consumer finance and credit card industry is still based in Wilmington, Delaware. In the early '80s, Delaware was one of the first states to eliminate its cap on bank interest rates, a move that brought hordes of banks into the state, where they could charge consumers who lived all over the nation whatever interest rates they wanted. This was bad news for the American people, who quickly fell into debt vassalage to the banks, but good for Delaware's economy. With its new finance fiefdom, Wilmington blossomed into a modern East Coast technocratic capital, and to this day owes its prosperity and skyscraper-filled downtown to Barclays, Chase and Citigroup.

But just as important, other states have since mimicked Delaware's strategy, eliminating their usury laws one by one in an effort to capture Delaware's deregulatory jackpot.

So the Delaware Chancery's recent usurpation of the legal process is only the latest development in the state's grifter approach to state governance, where all laws and institutions are for sale to the right price from a classy corporate client. But the Chancery's power-grab has the frightening potential to transform the nature of American justice where any corporation is concerned. If the court system itself becomes just another bargaining chip in the inter-state battle to win corporate addresses, we're in for serious trouble. But even the problem stays contained to Delaware, the huge proportion of U.S. corporations housed in the state give the move tremendous significance.

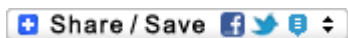
The Chancery's latest bid for secret corporate sessions marks a radical reduction in judicial transparency, one whose primary function is to spare unscrupulous firms the embarrassment of having to hold a public trial. As Frank Pileggi, host of Delawarelitigation.com, told the News Journal, "A lot of people do business together and may not want to air their dirty laundry in public."

Some senators, like New York's Chuck Schumer, are pushing for large public corporations to be registered at a federal level, where they can be held accountable in more even-handed federal courts. **With former Delaware Senator Joe Biden serving as vice president and looking out for his home interests, however, it's unlikely that we will see the incorporation process federalized any time soon.** But the companies hiding out in Delaware need to be held responsible to the public at large. American corporations should serve the national interest: not just the budget of the tiny state that harbors them.

Aaron Lake Smith is a writer living in Brooklyn, NY. He has written for the New York Times, Truthout, Audubon and Time Magazine.

© 2010 Independent Media Institute. All rights reserved.

AlterNet [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:09 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Sunday, April 4, 2010

[Jeff Nall: Revealing the Revolutionary King](#)

Revealing the Revolutionary King

by Jeff Nall [article link](#)

Spring 2006, Impact Press art/HOPE

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

Dr. Martin Luther King has been dead for more than 35 years [42 years/2010 Apr 04]. Today, the blood of torture victims from Guantanamo to Bagram is seeping into his grave while another sarcastic procession of politicians praise the polite Negro civil rights advocate. **They obscure his true epitaph, a radical vision of peace and justice, with profane flowers of hypocrisy and greed; drown his legacy in the putrid Katrina waters of class war and blatant racism; and molest his message of love with oil interests, foreign wars and gun-barrel liberation. In short, as another April denotes the death of the man, Martin Luther King, so too does it commemorate the assassination of his very spirit.**

But the time has come to stop giving lip service to the whitewashed version of King the powers that be force-feed us each year, and to take his call to march upon the radical road of living to free humanity of its bondage. **We must resurrect the revolutionary King who called on America to give up its materialism, its objectification of human beings; the King who committed himself to economic and social equality for everyone; who unequivocally denounced warfare; repudiated neo-liberalism and an unrestrained, capricious capitalism.** We must resurrect the spirit of the man who called on this nation to be "born again" because now more than ever, our country needs redemption, needs a savior, a prophet, needs the radical egalitarian message of Martin Luther King.

War is Not Peace

After more than a decade of serious contemplation, King unwaveringly concluded that no war is worth sacrificing children to. He said, **"More and more I have come to the conclusion that the potential destructiveness of modern weapons of war totally rules out the possibilities of war ever serving again as a negative good."**

These were not the words of a foolish idealist, but instead, those of an educated man, aided with as much if not more philosophical and historical wisdom, not to mention real-world experience, than anyone in the U.S. Senate or White House today. And while we often hear his name, most Americans—of all races—fail to adequately honor his legacy. To truly honor King, we must renounce war and prejudice, not simply read, watch, quote or reflect on his famous "I Have A Dream" speech. That's just the starting point.

The problem with the way great people like King are honored is that their images are polished and cleaned for the masses. These Rockwellian images of picturesque people are then sold to the public as something they had always loved. **In truth, King sacrificed himself for the sins of a bigoted nation; rather than coddling the American people, he challenged the white, indolent masses to be better human beings, to reach beyond their own self-interest. He also challenged African American civil rights advocates to look beyond their personal struggle, and stand up against the Vietnam War.**

Nothing exemplifies the distortion of King's legacy more fully than when President Bush made a mockery out of the 2003 MLK Day. Before the invasion of Iraq, Bush honored King's day while simultaneously preparing to wage a preemptive war. He even evoked King's own words, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," implying that King would have supported the decision to go to war. Bush went on to say, "As Americans celebrate the 18th national commemoration of the life and legacy of this great leader, we recognize the lasting truth of his words and his legacy..." Nothing could be further from the truth. **Ironically, the president, like many before and after him, used the words of a peacemaker as a slogan for impulsive, hegemonic military action.**

Adding to his resume of hypocrisy and doubletalk, Bush recently managed to bastardize both King and Mahatma Gandhi's legacy of peacemaking, evoking their names while securing a nuclear deal with India. On March 2, 2006, Bush visited Gandhi's memorial of where he bowed his head, laid a wreath and sprinkled petals at the site. The following day, while announcing a deal that would allow India access to nuclear fuel and technology, Bush praised Gandhi's legacy of peace and his influence on MLK: "India in the 21st century is a natural partner of the United States because we are brothers in the cause of human liberty. Yesterday, I visited a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, and read the peaceful words of a fearless man. His words are familiar in my country because they helped move a generation of Americans to overcome the injustice of racial segregation. When Martin Luther King arrived in Delhi in 1959, he said to other countries, 'I may go as a tourist, but to India, I come as a pilgrim.'" Bush, on the other hand, goes to the memorials of peacemakers as a pilgrim, but nevertheless leaves a baffled tourist.

But Bush is not alone in this campaign of distorting peace as war. Earlier this year, planners of the San Antonio MLK day march, the largest such event, joined Bush in ignoring King's militant stance against war, when they voted overwhelmingly in favor of a military flyover by two fighter jets. The MLK Commission's decision incensed peace activists who complained that the flyover was a direct offense to King's complete rejection of warfare. Consternated by the opposition's complaints, Rev. Herman Price, the chairman of the city's MLK Commission, said, "They say the planes represent war and bombs and death, but at the same time those planes can also represent our freedom and peace." And Sheila McNeil, City Councilwoman for the district that the march traveled through, added: "[The Military] are the reason why we have peace, and this is MLK's peace march." Apparently the good reverend and Ms. McNeil have been listening too much to President Bush's beloved mantra, "peace is war, war is peace," and not enough of King's own words.

To revive King's spirit, we should begin by touting his emphatic opposition to the military-industrial-complex, which ordinary Americans support each tax year. With the U.S. spending more than the next 14 top military spenders combined (two-fifths of global spending), Americans would do well to recall these words from King:

"This business of burning human beings with napalm, of filling our nation's homes with orphans and widows, or injecting poisonous drugs of hate into the veins of peoples normally humane, of sending men home from dark and bloody battlefields physically handicapped and psychologically deranged, cannot be reconciled with wisdom, justice and love. **A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.**"

As we continue to spend more than \$400 billion dollars on military spending (the president has asked for \$462.7 billion for 2007) and less than \$150 billion on education, health and human services, and the International Assistance Programs combined, that spiritual death looms terrifyingly near. Perhaps the best defense against terrorism would be to punish the warmongers who mar our democracy and threaten democratically elected leaders around the world whom they deem unacceptable, such as Venezuela's Hugo Chavez. **Whatever the solution to global terrorism, as King put it, one thing is certain, you can't make peace out of a lust and zeal for war:**

"The large power blocs talk passionately of pursuing peace while expanding defense budgets that already bulge, enlarging already awesome armies and devising ever more devastating weapons... Before it is too late, we must narrow the gaping chasm between our proclamations of peace and our lowly deeds which precipitate and perpetuate war."

One For All and All For One

In addition to saving King's message of peace from the war hungry, we must protect his vehement vision of equality for all from people like the homophobes who tried to prop-up their agenda on King's grave. In 2002, The Associated Press (AP) reported that a coalition of several organizations used the legacy of Martin Luther King to encourage voters to repeal Miami-Dade County's gay rights ordinance. According to AP, the group made a reproachful pamphlet complete with the sponsoring effigy of King and the words: "Martin Luther King Jr. would be OUTRAGED! If he knew homosexual extremists were abusing the civil rights movement to get special rights based on their sexual behavior."

Those who knew him best know better. On August 1, 2002, Coretta Scott King said, "I appeal to everyone who believes in Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream to make room at the table of brotherhood and sisterhood for lesbian and gay people." Similarly, she also said at the 25th anniversary luncheon for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund on March 31, 1998, "I still hear people say that I should not be talking about the rights of lesbian and gay people and I should stick to the issue of racial justice... But I hasten to remind them that Martin Luther King Jr. said, **'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.'**"

Adding yet another frustrating layer to the tepid, trivial treatment of deceased visionaries, Coretta's own commitment to gay and lesbian equality was largely glossed over by the mainstream media. Luckily, Deb Price, writing for The Detroit News, set the record straight in her February 6, 2006 column, "King's widow showed equality applies to gays." In the piece, Price not only proves Coretta's commitment to gay and lesbian rights, she also tells of how, before the assault on gay rights in Miami-Dade, Coretta battled bigots in Tampa in 1994 over the same issue:

"Foes of a Tampa, Fla., gay rights ordinance knew whose voice carried the most weight on civil rights. So, in 1994, when they mailed pamphlets to voters and left fliers on windshields at black churches, they dared to claim, 'Martin Luther King Jr. would be outraged if he knew that homosexual extremists were abusing the civil rights movement. Sodomy is not a civil right.'"

Absolutely not true, King's widow immediately corrected. Coretta Scott King fired off a letter to the people of Tampa, urging them "to vote 'no' on any and all attempts to deny the promise of America to any citizen..."

In later years, she declared all discrimination "equally wrong" and stressed "there is a connection between the racist, the anti-Semite, the sexist and the homophobe. They all share a sick need to dehumanize some minority to make themselves feel more adequate."

Having lost her husband to hate violence, Mrs. King reached out to the parents of Matthew Shepard the day after he was brutally murdered for being gay.

In lifting up gay people, Coretta Scott King left our nation an enduring message worthy of being engraved on every heart: **"Like Martin, I don't believe you can stand for freedom for one group of people and deny it to others."**

Most recently, journalist Max Blumenthal reported that, during the Conservative Christian rally Justice Sunday II, speakers evoked the memory of King and equated his civil rights struggle with the religious right's own movement. According to Blumenthal, "Born-again Watergate felon Chuck Colson declared that the Christian right was doing nothing but 'giving voice' to Martin Luther King Jr.'s philosophy."

The religious right's business of hate and intolerance is about as far removed from King's message of love and tolerance as hell is from heaven. King reproached the religious zealots of the world who saw religion as a weapon of hate, used to divide human beings rather than unite them:

"But I know that love is ultimately the only answer to mankind's problems... I've seen too much hate... I say to myself that hate is too great a burden to bear. I have decided to love. If you are seeking the highest good, I think you can find it through love. The beautiful thing is that we aren't moving wrong when we do it because John was right, **God is love. He who hates does not know God. He who loves has the key that unlocks the door to the meaning of ultimately reality.**"

The Failures of Capitalism

Beyond the issue of peace and brotherhood, perhaps the most neglected of King's views is his support for altering the U.S. economic system. At a time when a quarter of the world's financial assets belong to 8.3 millionaires and the U.S. Senate refuses to increase the \$5.15-an-hour minimum wage, King's critique of capitalism has never been more relevant. He explained:

"We must honestly admit that capitalism has often left a gulf between superfluous wealth and abject poverty, has created conditions permitting necessities to be taken from the many to give luxuries to the few, and has encouraged small hearted men to become cold and conscienceless so that, like Dives before Lazarus [[wikipedia](#)], they are unmoved by suffering, poverty-stricken humanity. **The profit motive, when it is the sole basis of an economic system, encourages a cutthroat competition and selfish ambition that inspire men to be more I-centered than thou-centered.**"

Considering the increasing concentration of wealth among the few, it's no wonder King believed that American society needed to be restructured and called for a broader distribution of wealth. According to a study by the Annie E. Casey, Ford and Rockefeller foundations, "one in every five U.S. jobs pays less than a poverty-level wage for a family of four." As a result, the study concludes "that nearly 39 million Americans, including 20 million children, are members of 'low-income working families'—with barely enough money to cover basic needs like housing, groceries and child care." **In his own day, King said that "an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring" and seriously questioned claims of private ownership of natural resources.**

"See my friends, when you deal with this you begin to ask the question, who owns the oil? You begin to ask the question, who owns the iron-ore? You begin to ask the question why is it that people have to pay water bills in a world that's two-thirds water? ...Now don't think you have me in a bind today, I'm not talking about Communism... My inspiration didn't come from Karl Marx. My inspiration didn't come from Engels; my inspiration didn't come from Trotsky; my inspiration didn't come from Lenin... **Communism forgets that life is individual. Capitalism forgets that life is social. The kingdom of brotherhood is found neither in the thesis of Communism nor the antithesis of Capitalism but in a higher synthesis. It's found in a higher synthesis that can combine the truths of both.**"

King went on to add that "the problem of racism, the problem of economic exploitation and the problem of war are all tied together. These are the triple evils that are interrelated."

The Courageous Conscience

Above all else, King called on us to have a courageous conscience, unafraid of dissent or its consequence. When he was asked about his anti-war stand during the Vietnam War he answered simply: "Vanity asks the question 'Is it popular?' Conscience asks the question 'Is it right?'"

It is time we make a serious commitment to taking over where Dr. King left off, by standing for free speech, economic equality, and human rights, despite the corporate media's influence on the American masses.

As we reflect on another lost year for King, a year he should've had a chance to experience, we are reminded that now a new shooter has taken aim at his very essence. King's legacy, the project of peace he left behind, is targeted for assassination and, with it, hope for a new nation. **It's time to heed his call to service, to action. No longer should we mourn his death, but put our all into preserving his dream and applying his vision.**

On April 7, 1957, King gave an emotive, soul-driving description of the process of achieving freedom. In his speech, "**The Birth of a New Nation**," King declared:

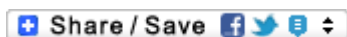
"If there had not been a Gandhi in India with all of his noble followers, India would have never been free. If there had not been an Nkrumah and his followers in Ghana, Ghana would still be a British colony. If there had not been abolitionists in America, both Negro and white, we might still stand today in the dungeons of slavery. And then because there have been, in every period, there are always those people in every period of human history who don't mind getting their necks cut off, who don't mind being persecuted and discriminated and kicked about, because they know that freedom is never given out, but it comes through the persistent and the continual agitation and revolt on the part of those who are caught in the system. Ghana teaches us that."

So did Martin and Coretta.

Now it's time to stick our necks out.

Jeff Nall is a community activist and free-lance writer. He has written for various publications including IMPACT press, Z magazine, Clamor, Liberty, Freethought Today and Toward Freedom. He lives with his wife and daughter in Brevard County, Florida.

The Spring 2006 Issue #60 was IMPACT Press' last Issue
IMPACT Press [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:49 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Saturday, April 3, 2010

[Let Us Finally Gift The Life That Was Gifted To Us !!](#)

The occupation of America (the public-Nation) by the United States (the private-State) MUST END - this applies to Canada as well, essentially the 51st State (has been for decades), and Britain; ALL ARE SIMILARLY OCCUPIED AND OWNED, the Anglo-American Brotherhood goes back millennia. **WE MUST RESIST: ** OUR ONLY WEAPON IS OUR REFUSAL !!** ** Violence must be avoided at all cost, the Corporate behave as beasts, we must not. Partisanship is used by those wholly corporate as it is an instrumentality of it. **A blend of Rwandan-Serbian "Tea" steeped in hate and violence will only serve corporate interests and increase our suppression and enslavement. Those who incite violence must be indicted; if death results they must be charged with inciting Genocide. An invective firestorm can only result in harm and they know it - DO NOT BE USED BY THEM !!**

We are the VALUE of the currency. The CORPORATE hold the threat of physical force over us, but we hold the the ultimate power over them, the VALUE of their riches, without us they are less than paupers. **We must take back our value and employ it for ourselves, together !! Disinvest from the Corporate, repudiate their debt and Government and invest in community. Withdraw all support and use of Federal Reserve Notes (FRN's) and associate currencies (CDN Dollar / Pound / EURO), demand employment of public monies !! Protect your neighbors from predatory banks: surround their homes and resist repossession (without violence) !! Withdraw all monies from any bank who will repossess any home !!** POLICE AND MILITARY, WE ARE YOUR BROTHERS, SISTERS, SONS, DAUGHTERS, AUNTS, UNCLES, MOTHERS AND FATHERS: YOU ARE US, WE ARE YOU - STAND WITH US NOT THE CORPORATE: YOU ARE FAMILY, THEY ARE NOT (all of us are considered chattel by them - they "disowned" us as family a long time ago in order to "own" us as slaves) !! WHEN OUR RIGHTS ARE SUPPRESSED AND TRAMPLED ON SO ARE YOURS - **PLEASE DO NOT PUT YOUR SOLES ON OUR SOULS !!**

Our Nations are about to collapse, their artificial supports have rotted away, have crumbled, have been hammered by willful intent, neglect and greed !! If we do not step in and assume responsibility for our safety and security we will surely perish. WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR FAMILIES AND TO OURSELVES: OUR FUTURE IS OURS OR THERE WILL BE NO FUTURE !! "DO NO HARM, CAUSE NO LOSS" MUST BE REMADE AS THE COMMON LAW OF THE LAND !! The Spiritual Illness that possesses us, that occupies every facet of our lives must be cured. It is Mammon, the false-god of the Corporate. It is cured by out-going concern, forgiveness and unselfish love - well-being and salvation is the result - a gift from God (no matter your definition): if the "result" is unselfish love (giving not taking) then it is the truth - all else is error. A society of the "gift" gives life, a society of the "take" takes life. LET US FINALLY GIFT THE LIFE THAT WAS GIFTED TO US, IT IS OURS TO GIVE !!

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:40 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Saturday, April 3, 2010

William E. Alberts: The True Meaning of Easter

The True Meaning of Easter

Resurrection is for the Living

By Rev. WILLIAM E. ALBERTS [article link](#)

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

At Easter, throughout America, throngs of Christians will fill their churches enthusiastically singing hymns of “the resurrection of the dead,” while their government’s “Christian soldiers” are “marching as to war,” killing, maiming, and uprooting throngs of faceless Muslim men, women and children and other non-Christians *in their name*.

Christians of various denominations will lift up their voices and shout, “Alleluia! . . . The strife is o’er, the battle done; the victory of life is won.” (Words: Anonymous; Music: Giovanni P. De Palestrina, The United Methodist Hymnal, 1989) **In the face of the continuing “strife” in Iraq, where well over one million civilians have been killed and some four million more uprooted, as a result of the Easter worshippers’ government’s falsely based illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq in their name.** (See “Civilian deaths may top 1 million, poll data indicate,” Los Angeles Times, Sept. 14, 2007) **And in Pakistan, the number of civilians made internal refugees just by the recent US-pressured Pakistani military’s “battle” against Taliban havens is estimated to be between 2 and 3 million, creating terrible humanitarian “strife.”** (See “Pakistan’s Refugee Disaster,” by Stewart J. Lawrence, Counterpunch, Dec. 18-20, 2009).

Followers of a “risen Christ” will crowd into sanctuaries across America and sing a favorite resurrection song”:

Love’s redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won,
Death in vain forbids him rise,
Christ has opened Paradise.

(“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today,” Words: Charles Wesley; Music: Lyra Davidica, The United Methodist Hymnal.)

And far away their government's military's pilotless drones and Special Forces helicopters continue putting to death civilians of all ages in Afghanistan and Pakistan in their name. But the Easter worshippers may find comfort in the prescribed apology of top US commander, General Stanley A. McChrystal, who said, in response to the latest airstrike that ended any *earthly* "paradise" for 27 Afghan civilians, "We are extremely saddened by this tragic loss of innocent lives." His next words also were intended to salve the consciences of the Easter masses more than to reassure the Afghan people: "I have made it clear to our forces that *we are here to protect the Afghan people* [italics added]." For good measure, he added, "I pledge to strengthen our efforts to regain your trust to build a brighter future for all Afghans." (The New York Times, Feb. 23, 2010.)

"We are here to protect the Afghan people." It is as if the US military were invited rather than having mercilessly bombed and then invaded Afghanistan. **The arrogance of American imperialistic exceptionalism. That redefines invading as invited, killing as "protecting," destroying as "building" and controlling as "trusting." Such exceptionalistic words are music to the ears of like-minded exceptionalistic-believing Christians, especially at Easter-time when their "risen Christ" is proof of Christianity's own uniqueness and superiority.**

General McChrystal's public relations assault on reality makes disappear the violent termination of "a brighter future" for the Muslims who get in the way of or resist the "goodness" of America's imperialistic foreign policy. **A foreign policy whose assumed aim is not "to build a brighter future for all Afghans," but to *brighten* profits for America's military-industrial complex.** The other assumed aim is controlling Afghanistan because of the strategic access it provides for the huge oil and natural gas resources in the Caspian Sea area. (See, "The US War in Afghanistan: Another Oil War?," by David Michael Smith, www.impactpress.com, June-July, 2002) **Like Iraq with its enormous oil reserves, America's mission in Afghanistan is fuel and profits for the political-controlling corporate elite not "the bright future" of freedom and peace for the Afghan people.** Facts most Christians do not want to be disturbed by, especially on their holiest of Sundays when they are worshipping "the resurrection of the dead."

For most Christians, Easter is about a sunrise that *brightens* an empty tomb. "Lives again our glorious King," they harmonize, "Where, O death, is now they sting? . . . Once he died *our souls to save* [italics added], Where's thy victory, boasting grave?" (Ibid) Faith in an eternally loving god in the face of death especially is very comforting for many people. It meets very human needs. **Easter, however, for most Christians, is about individual salvation not interpersonal solidarity. It is about personal resurrection from the dead not community restoration for the living. It is about an "open" tomb that is restricted. It is for believers only not justice for all. It is about eternity not ethics, about right belief not just behavior. It is about the resurrection of the dead not the living.** And in its exceptionalistic extreme, it invites those narcissistic voices of the Christian faith to drown out the "sting of death" and the graves and grief of faceless Muslims and other human beings and their loved ones. They are victims of internationally condemned American crimes against humanity committed by the Easter worshippers' government *in their name*,

Thus, at Easter, **two of the world's worst war criminals, former president George W. Bush and his vice president, Dick Cheney**, will be warmly greeted in their respective United Methodist Churches, and may even join in singing,

Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose powers a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise.
'His reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

("Crown Him with Many Crowns," Words: Matthew Bridges; Music: George J. Elvey, The United Methodist Hymnal, 1989)

A self-portrayed man of prayer especially, former President Bush "preyed" America into one war after another. (See Alberts, "Faith-Based Deceptions: On Bended Knee," www.counterpunch.com, Oct. 22/24, 2004) Still cloaking his war

crimes in piety, he recently said that his “faith helped in tough times as president.” (Associated Press, USA TODAY.com, Mar. 1, 2010) His “tough times” were when he lied about Iraq possessing weapons of mass destruction to justify his administration’s criminal war against Iraq. “Tough times” that became deadly and destructive times for millions of Iraqi mothers and fathers and their children—and for close to 4400 American sons and daughters killed and an estimated over one hundred thousand wounded. (See, www.antiwar.com/casualties)

According to former vice president Cheney, all the deaths and destruction in Iraq were worth it. He recently criticized the Obama administration for “wrongly trying to take credit for any progress in Iraq,” when they opposed the war. “If we’d followed the policies they’d pursued from the outset or advocated from the outset,” Cheney commented, “Saddam Hussein would still be in power in Baghdad today.” (The New York Times, Feb. 15, 2010) Probably. *And all the dead and wounded Iraqi and American human beings would still be alive and whole.* And the UN weapons inspectors would have finished their work, which the Bush administration’s invasion of Iraq conveniently aborted, and found that Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction—nor ties to Al Qaeda, which Bush and Cheney repeatedly claimed to justify their administration’s pre-emptive war against Iraq.

“Tough times.” Not for former president Bush and vice president Cheney. In the face of their glaring war crimes, the United Methodist Church, with some resistance, has created the George W. Bush Presidential Center, with its library and museum, at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. And Bush’s “tough times” as president earned him a book deal worth \$7 million from Random House’s Crown Publishing Group. (“Bush Book Deal Worth \$7 million,” The Daily Beast, Mar. 19, 2009). Bush’s criminal co-conspirator Cheney has also signed a book contract, with Simon and Schuster, reportedly for over \$2 million. (“Cheney inks book deal - \$2 million plus,” by Michael Calderon, Politico, June 24, 2009) And surely not “tough times” but *lucrative times* for Halliburton, where Cheney was CEO before becoming vice president. Halliburton is the largest corporate contractor in Iraq, and by 2005 reportedly received over \$9 billion in no-bid contracts for providing various support services to the US troops, the total “mounting at about \$6 billion a year, according to Army documents and officials.” (“Halliburton: \$9.6 Billion in Iraq So Far,” by Pamela Hess, United Press International, Feb. 25, 2005) **The fact that Bush and Cheney remain free and receive exceptional treatment is a commentary on the moral numbness of so many Easter worshippers.**

The ethnocentric and exceptionalistic “love of God and country” undermining America’s morality and security is also seen in the recent Academy Award presentation for “Best Picture” to *The Hurt Locker*. This acclaimed Hollywood film provides another measure of America’s immoral temperature. Its portrayal of the bravery of American servicemen who locate and diffuse bombs in Iraq conveniently overshadows the US military’s illegal massive “shock and awe” bombing of Iraq, which indiscriminately killed and wounded tens of thousands of civilians and greatly impacted the country’s life-sustaining infrastructure. *The Hurt Locker* is assumed to be an extension of the status quo’s guardian mainstream media’s role of covering up rather than uncovering the lies upon which grave injustices are perpetuated by the US government abroad and at home.

At Easter, multitudes of Christians will pack churches and celebrate “the resurrection of the dead.” Tragically, the hearts of many are deadened to the victims of their government’s oppressive policies *in their name*. **They have been manipulated by and bought into political and corporate and religious fear- and war-mongering. Rather than believing in animal sacrifice to ward off evil spirits, Christians believe in *human sacrifice*, i.e., the sacrificing of other people and their children—and even their own children—to ward off the evil spirits of those their government and its guardian media and corporate profiteers and accommodating religious leaders designate as “terrorists.”** Sadly, they are victims of their own ethnocentric and exceptionalistic Christian beliefs. Beliefs that prevent them from seeing other persons as individuals who love and strive and laugh and cry as they do. Their designated enemies are not “terrorists” but human beings whose numbers will grow and whose grief and anger and desire for revenge against America will surely intensify.

America’s strength is not found in military force but in the universally understood Golden Rule. It is in treating others as we want to be treated that we discover *a shared way to eternal life*. **It is about the resurrection of the living.** The Biblical story of The Good Samaritan points the way.

A lawyer asked Jesus, “ ‘Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ ” When Jesus asked him, “What is written in the law,” he correctly replied, **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart . . . and your neighbor as yourself.”**

Then the lawyer, “wanting to justify himself,” asked the question which leads to the resurrection of the living: “And who is my neighbor?” The real neighbor, Jesus said, was not a priest nor a Levite who “passed by on the other side” of a beaten and robbed traveler, but a Samaritan who dared to “come near him . . . was moved by pity . . . bandaged his wounds” and continued to provide care for him. (Luke 10: 25-37)

Easter is about *waking up to reality* and saying no to the injustices our government is committing *in our name*. It is about saying yes to and redressing America’s victims—in Afghanistan and Pakistan and Iraq and the Palestinian territories and Haiti and elsewhere. Easter is about drawing near to and empathizing with and binding up the wounds of the fallen and honoring their human rights.

Easter is about the resurrection of the living.

Rev. William E. Alberts, Ph.D. is a hospital chaplain and a diplomate in the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy. Both a Unitarian Universalist and a United Methodist minister, he has written research reports, essays and articles on racism, war, politics and religion. He can be reached at william.alberts@bmc.org.

CounterPunch [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:54 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

John W. Whitehead: The Government of God

The Government of God: An Easter Message

By John W. Whitehead [article link](#)

3/29/2010

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

On a spring day in the year 30, two processions entered Jerusalem. It was the beginning of the week of Passover, the most sacred week of the Jewish year. In centuries past, Christians have celebrated this day as Palm Sunday. For many, this week, which ends with Easter, is the most sacred week of the Christian year.

One was a peasant procession, the other an imperial Roman procession. From the East, Jesus rode a donkey down the Mount of Olives as his followers cheered. Jesus was from the peasant village of Nazareth, and his followers came from a peasant class that was considered beneath both the Jewish and Roman rulers.

On the opposite side of the city, from the West, Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, entered Jerusalem at the head of a column of imperial soldiers and cavalymen with pomp and circumstance. It was a statement of raw military might. As Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan write in *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Final Days in Jerusalem* (2006):

Imagine the imperial procession's arrival in the city. A visual panoply of imperial power: cavalry on horses, foot soldiers, leather armor, helmets, weapons, banners, golden eagles mounted on poles, sun glinting on metal and gold. Sounds: the marching of feet, the creaking of leather, the clinking of bridles, the beating of drums. The swirling of dust. The eyes of the silent onlookers, some curious, some awed, some resentful.

Pilate's procession displayed not only imperial power but also Roman imperial theology. The emperor was not simply the ruler of Rome; he was seen as the Son of God. Thus, for Rome's Jewish subjects, Pilate's procession embodied not only a rival social order but also a rival theology and, thus, a rival kingdom.

Jesus' procession, however, proclaimed a different kind of kingdom, a kingdom for here and now. As Christ teaches his disciples to pray, "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). **This kingdom is based on love of humanity and peace where rulers were to be servants of the people. This was the kingdom of God.**

Pilate's procession, however, proclaimed the power of empire-an empire of subjugation and violence where the people either obeyed or suffered. The two processions embodied the central conflict that led to Jesus' execution, and it is the same conflict that confronts Christians who dare speak the truth of Christ to power today.

As Jesus rode the donkey down the Mount of Olives to the city, he was surrounded by a throng of enthusiastic followers. They spread cloaks, strew leafy branches on the road and shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" (Matthew 21:9). "Hosanna" is the Hebrew word meaning "Save, we pray."

The meaning of this demonstration has both political and religious connotations. It uses symbolism from the prophet Zechariah. According to Zechariah, a king would be coming to Jerusalem (Zion) "righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9). Zechariah 9:10 details what kind of king he will be:

I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Jesus the king, riding on a donkey, will banish war and violence from the land-no more chariots, war-horses or bows. He was a king of peace.

The message to the powers-that-be, as Borg and Crossan note, was clear: **"Jesus' procession deliberately countered what was happening on the other side of the city. Pilate's procession embodied the power, glory, and violence of the empire that ruled the world. Jesus' procession embodied an alternative vision, the kingdom of God."**

This contrast-between the kingdom of God, based on love of people and peace, and the kingdom of Caesar, based on subjugating people and violence-is central to the story of Christ. As such, Jesus' procession that day symbolized his direct and subtle undermining of both the political and religious establishments that ruled the world.

Of course, the Romans eventually came to see Jesus as enough of a threat to have him killed. In the time of Jesus, religious preachers and self-proclaimed prophets were not summarily arrested and executed. Nor were nonviolent protesters. Indeed, the high priests and Roman governors in Jerusalem would normally allow a protest, particularly a small-scale one, to run its course. However, the authorities were quick to dispose of leaders and movements that even appeared to threaten the Roman Empire.

The charges leveled against Jesus-that he was a threat to the stability of the nation, opposed paying Roman taxes and claimed to be the rightful King as Messiah of Israel-were purely political, not religious. To the Romans, any one of these charges was enough to merit death by crucifixion. But the gravest charge, for which Jesus was ultimately crucified, was stated in the inscription on the cross: "The King of the Jews." The Roman governor Pontius Pilate, who alone had the authority to execute Jesus, focused on his political identity: "Are you the king of the Jews?" (Matthew 27:11). This seems to be primarily what mattered to Pilate, whose job it was to uphold the religious, as well as the temporal, power of the deified Caesars.

Jesus does not deny the allegation which, if true, will lead to his death. He answers: "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me" (John 18:37).

Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God-also known as the Government of God-was a total reordering of both the spiritual and temporal life. Jesus' teaching on the Government of God, as seen, for example, in the **Sermon on the Mount**, is that the significance of the rule of God pertains to everything-marriage, money, personal relationships, community life, religion, politics and so on. Jesus also addresses prayer, faith, repentance, forgiveness, honesty and our relationship to God. And although the Government of God is far broader than politics, it has political ramifications. "The rule of God over everything is also God's rule over politics," writes Alan Storkey in *Jesus and Politics: Confronting the Powers* (2005). **"It is the central truth of political life, the reference point for states, rulers, law, and justice-whether**

they recognize it or not. Logic requires it. How could the rule of God not apply to states and politics, as though God opted out of this part of their existence?"

Incredibly, Jesus had entered Jerusalem riding a donkey, proclaiming the Government of God and eventually laying it all before the people and their rulers. That is why Jesus was able to say to Pilate: "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above" (John 19:11). Earlier, Jesus had told his followers not to fear rulers because they can only kill you (Matthew 10:28). Now standing before the Roman governor with his back ripped open and bleeding, Jesus flatly refused to relinquish the fact that the Government of God is for here and now. As he told Pilate: "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place" (John 18:36).

In other words, Jesus told Pilate that his kingdom of peace and love does not originate of "this world" of violence, avarice and greed. It originates from God. Thus, Jesus will not resort to the tactics of rulers such as Pilate and maintain power by force.

Jesus' government points to another way.

©2010 The Rutherford Institute

Under the regulations of the United States Internal Revenue Service, The Rutherford Institute is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit organization. Donations to support The Rutherford Institute's legal and educational work help to safeguard the constitutional rights and religious freedoms of all Americans. Donations are tax-deductible. In compliance with general industry standards of a nonprofit organization, the Institute is audited annually by an independent accounting firm.

Founded in 1982 by constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead, The Rutherford Institute is a civil liberties organization that provides free legal services to people whose constitutional and human rights have been threatened or violated.

The Rutherford Institute [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:32 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Friday, April 2, 2010

[Len Hart: When 'We the People' Lost America](#)

When 'We the People' Lost America

By Len Hart [article link](#) [article link](#)

April 01, 2010 "The Existentialist Cowboy"

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

We have forgotten what it was like in this country during the Reagan administration. A great reminder may be found in the words of E.L. Doctorow, writing in 1989, who summed up the legacy left to Bill Clinton by the conservative administrations of Ronald Reagan/Bush:

"The philosophical conservative is someone willing to pay the price of other people's suffering for his principles. And so we now have hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of our citizens lying around the streets of our cities, sleeping in doorways, begging with styrofoam cups. We didn't have a class of permanent beggars in this country, the United States of America, fifteen or twenty years ago. We didn't have kids selling crack in their grade schools, or businessmen magnifying

their fortunes into mega-fortunes by stock manipulation and thievery. I don't remember such epidemics of major corporate fraud.

A decade ago you did not have college students scrawling racial epithets or anti-semitic graffiti on the room doors of their fellow students... So something poisonous has been set loose in the last several years as we have enjoyed life under the power and principles of political conservatism. ...part of this poisonous thing that I'm trying to describe is its characteristic way of dealing with criticism: it used to be enough brand a critic as a radical or a leftist to make people turn away. Now we need only to call him a liberal. Soon "moderate" will be the M word, "conservative" the C word, and only fascists will be in the mainstream. And that degradation of discourse, that, too, is part of this something that is really rotten in America right now."

--E. L. Doctorow, [Jack London, Hemingway and the Constitution](#)

Doctorow continues to describe the change in America during the Reagan/Bush years:

"...we have seen a national regression to the robber-baronial thinking of the nineteenth century. **This amounts to nothing less than a deconstruction of America, the dismantling of enlightened social legislation that had begun to bring equity over half a century to the lives of working people, to rectify some of the terrible imbalance of racial injustice and give a fair shake to the outsiders, the underdogs, the newcomers. We have seen the ideals of environmental sanctity sacrificed to the demands of business thinking in which we have done only as much to protect our environment as industry has found convenient**, as if only a few songbirds and some poor dumb animals were at stake, as if the bleeding hearts of woodsy environmentalists were the issue, and not our lungs and skins and genes, and the wholeness and health of our children and their children."

--E. L. Doctorow, Jack London, Hemingway and the Constitution

One day, a new generation will awaken to the harm done this country during those *halcyon* years when Uncle Ronnie made the 'gopper-inclined' feel good about themselves as only goppers and the gopper-inclined can feel good about themselves while stepping over people made homeless by their policies. Was it under Reagan that we lost that last remaining ounce of empathy? The dishonest among us will deny reality, call us a 'name', or pretend not to know or understand what we're talking about. The rest of us may agree --yes --it was during the Reagan years that our shaky moral footing slipped. Before Reagan, there was hope albeit inspired by dimming light. After Reagan, nothing mattered but wealth and power. Life held little promise. Thus was born of goppo-nomics a nihilistic world in which nothing mattered as all fame is fleeting and wealth is whatever someone else wants at the moment and, perhaps, worth nothing tomorrow when resources grow scarce and oil has run its course.

Corporate Special Interests Come of Age

This 'sea-change' in American attitudes and politics has been dated to the 70s by many 'progressive/liberal' writers and journalists primarily because it was during the 70s that America seemingly abandoned a 'firm commitment' to eliminating poverty, helping the poor, extending the benefits of education to all classes. These were the ideals of FDR's 'New Deal' and LBJ's 'Great Society' and, of course, the so-called 'radical 60s. **The 'revolution' was lost, however, with a conservative counter-revolution: the rise of corporate person-hood which was itself the *reductio ad absurdum* of the corporate special interest system now flourishing openly in the offices of various lobbies on K-street.**

How and Why Washington Dysfunctions!

The Power Game: How Washington Works by Hedrick Smith describes the process by which power in the House of Representatives was 'de-centralized'. **The year was 1974.** Certainly --there were no 'second coming' headlines announcing the sea-change that would result when 22 committees delegated much, perhaps most, of their authority to 172 sub-committees. While the process by which this occurred may be little understood, the results that followed are more obvious, primarily, the resulting mass of competing special interests operating --at first --secretly but now openly, blatantly in fancy offices on K-street! Once discrete, corporations now lobby openly, flagrantly, in an on-going auction of our government.

A second blow to Democracy came in the form of the SUN-PAC decision of 1975, a decision which 'legalized' corporate PACs --'Political Action Committees'. I can tell you from experience: this move energized, radicalized and mobilized the GOP as it most certainly had not been mobilized before. The effect then was not unlike the impact now of the recent ruling that 'corporations are people'. The GOP was equipped to go where no gopper had gone before'. In 1974, there were but 89 corporate PACs. In another ten years there were 1,682. I have no idea how many operate freely and openly today.

PAC victories came quickly and represented 'an enormous shift' in political power defined by the defeat of Ralph Nader's proposed Consumer Protection Agency. A galvanized, politicized 'corporate community' then celebrated the defeat of a proposed 'tax hike' which journalist Hedrick Smith said: "brought more bees after the honey." **Those were heady days for those who now celebrate 'corporate personhood' as recently decreed by SCOTUS.**

PAC donations and the resulting passage of laws favoring the right wing/GOP are easily correlated. By 1992, some 67 percent of all PACS were corporate. Their donations amounted to 79 percent of all contributions to political parties. Bluntly, the corporations had --at last --found a way to buy the government of the United States. The recent **SCOTUS** decision making these 'legal abstractions' persons is, of course, absurd, without precedent in law but even worse is the fact that while the right of individuals to petition Congress is guaranteed by the Constitution, mere real persons lacking donations, lacking funding, are, in fact, never granted access to their elected representatives. Artificial people --corporations --are given seemingly unlimited access.

The SCOTUS decision was and remains disingenuous, dishonest, blatantly contemptuous of the Constitution, disdainful of Democracy itself. I believe, therefore that the corporate special interest system is not merely unconstitutional on its face, it's affirmation by SCOTUS represents a *coup d'etat* which made official the fact that the U.S. is no longer a Democratic Republic but a fascist oligopoly whose *raison d'etre* is the waging of war. Worse -- death and destruction are the only exports in which we lead the world.

In 1994 Republicans took over Congress, boasting that they would end 40 years of 'liberal' rule. In fact, the 80s were a profoundly conservative era and, tragically for the nation, Democratic politicians participated willingly. It was during the 80s, that corporate PACs hedged their bets by contributing 'liberally' to both parties, though Democrats got only 'sloppy seconds', almost always much less than amounts given GOP candidates.

Did Reagan's misrule constitute "high crimes and misdemeanors"? Many GOP-types will define "high crimes and misdemeanors" as simply "bad behavior". If that is the standard, then surely, Ronald Reagan should have been impeached, tried, convicted, removed! Bankrupting the nation is 'bad' behavior by any standard. Rewarding incompetence while incompetent is worse than driving while drunk! Blowing the world's last chance at nuclear disarmament is even worse, perhaps fatal, behavior. What about the bungling of George Bush Sr toward the end of the Persian Gulf war when he promised to protect the Kurds but allowed them to fall to a strong Iraqi military? Is that "bad behavior"? Certainly, it is! George Bush should have been impeached and so too Lyndon Johnson who staged the Gulf of Tonkin incident leading to wider U.S. involvement in Viet Nam.

The brutal murder of JFK --a cowardly act in which the Warren Commission may have conspired with the FBI to falsify and plant evidence -- was not sufficient to finish off the vestiges of our Republic. There was no single, defining incident in which the American 'republic' ceased to be. There was no dramatic sea-change comparable to the auction of the Roman Empire to nobleman Didius Julianus. There was no great or heroic battle waged and lost. There was no arrest of Essex. There was no play to 'catch the conscience of a King'. And now, there is no speech, no kiss before dying, no Shakespearean exit but a pathetic whimper before the lights are dimmed and a weary audience dismissed.

The Existentialist Cowboy [blog home](#)
Information Clearing House [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:28 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

John Kozy: The Disintegration of Fractured Democracies

The Disintegration of Fractured Democracies

In America, the Fracturing results from the Economic System

by John Kozy [article link](#)

Global Research, April 1, 2010

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

Consider this paraphrased account of a famous nation's demise:

The death of the nation was both violent and natural. The fatal agents were the organic disorders of the system. The government had proven incapable of solving problems: it failed to preserve domestic order or an effective defense; it discovered no way of reconciling local autonomy with national stability and power; and its love of liberty failed to interfere with its passion for empire and war. The class struggle had become bitter beyond control and had turned democracy into a contest in legislative looting. The legislature degenerated into a mob, rejecting all restraint, voting itself every favor, and crushing initiative, industry, and thrift.

Education spread, but thinly; it stressed knowledge more than character and produced masses of half-educated people. The old problem of ethics and morals found no solution in religion, statesmanship, or philosophy. Religious superstition spread even while science reached its apogee. The growth of knowledge secularized morals, marriage, parentage, and law, and the pursuit of pleasure prevailed. Public games degenerated into professional contests; the people, who had once been athletic, now became spectators, content to witness rather than to do. Sexual morality was relaxed, and human life was portrayed as a round of triviality, seduction, and adultery. . . . The nation had destroyed itself; it died of its own tyrannous anarchy.

What nation do these paragraphs describe? It could be the United States of America, but it is not. These paragraphs come almost word for word from Will Durant's *The Life of Greece* where he describes the demise of Athenian democracy.

Madison, in *The Federalist*, No. 10, writes,

The friend of popular governments never finds himself so much alarmed for their character and fate, as when he contemplates their propensity to [factions]. . . . Complaints are everywhere heard . . . that our governments are too unstable, that the public good is disregarded in the conflicts of rival parties, and that measures are too often decided, not according to the rules of justice and . . . rights. . . .

The latent causes of faction are . . . sown in the nature of man. . . . A zeal for different opinions concerning religion, concerning government, and many other points, as well . . . ; an attachment to different leaders ambitiously contending for pre-eminence and power; or to persons of other descriptions whose fortunes have been interesting to the human passions, have, in turn, divided mankind into parties, inflamed them with mutual animosity, and rendered them much more disposed to vex and oppress each other than to co-operate for their common good. . . . But the most common and durable source of factions has been the various and unequal distribution of property. . . .

It is in vain to say that enlightened statesmen will be able to adjust these clashing interests, and render them all subservient to the public good. Enlightened statesmen will not always be at the helm. . . .

The inference to which we are brought is, that the CAUSES of faction cannot be removed, and that relief is only to be sought in the means of controlling its EFFECTS. . . .

By what means is this object attainable? . . .

Madison believed that "[A]s each representative will be chosen by a greater number of citizens . . . it will be more difficult for unworthy candidates to practice with success the vicious arts by which elections are too often carried; and the suffrages of the people being more free, will be more likely to centre in men who possess the most attractive merit and the most diffusive and established characters." Unfortunately he was wrong, but he was right in writing that "**Men of factious**

tempers, of local prejudices, or of sinister designs, may, by intrigue, by corruption, or by other means, first obtain the suffrages, and then betray the interests, of the people. . . ."

When the number of contentious factions in a society becomes large, society becomes ungovernable; it literally implodes. All appearances indicate that the United States has reached this point. A recent poll found that only 21% of Americans believe that the government functions with the people's consent, and nearly six in ten Americans say they are dissatisfied with the way democracy works in the United States.

Aside from the government's being paralyzed, violence is ubiquitous and uncontrollable and the incarcerated are routinely freed to make space for others. Worse, the judicial system often convicts the innocent. Many laws are routinely ignored by even those who are generally law abiding citizens. Religious and racial intolerance is prevalent and often justified by untrue historical claims often taught to students in "history" classes.

Primitive societies are unified by common ancestries and beliefs, but current "advanced" societies lack both. The claim is often made, however, that there are fundamental beliefs that underlie even "advanced" societies. Unfortunately, these claims are always made on some level of generality. For instance, some claim that America was founded on "Christian" principles, but 'Christian' today is an abstract noun. It specifies nothing concrete. Yes, many of those who colonized America did so for religious reasons, but not all did, and those who did did not exhibit much "Christian" charity in dealing with others, even other Christians. The Constitution would never have been ratified by this disparate group had no assurance been given that the federal government would not attempt to impose a "state" religion upon the new nation, and even that did not placate all: Clifton Olmstead, in his History of Religion in United States quotes a Congregationalist minister about the separation: "It was as dark a day as ever I saw. The odium thrown upon the ministry was inconceivable. The injury done to the cause of Christ, as we then supposed, was irreparable," and many today hold similar views. So, if someone had asked the colonists what "Christian" principles they all agreed to, I suspect that "None!" Would have been the answer.

But the same is true of what are called "American values" or, as it is often put, "what America stands for." No one ever specifies what those values are or attempts to verify that Americans really hold them. Sen. David Vitter said, "I'm on the side of conservatives getting back to core conservative values," but no one ever provides a specific list of them. As a matter of fact, the Pew Social and Demographic Trends Project found that "American adults from young to old disagree increasingly today on . . . values ranging from religion to relationships, creating the largest generation gap since divisions 40 years ago over Vietnam, civil rights and women's liberation." **So appeals to America's core values are appeals to nothing real. No group of traditional beliefs exists to unite America's disparate groups. America is a fractured society.**

But how did this fracture come about? Many causes can be cited, but the ultimate cause is clear. **The fracturing results from the economic system.** Madison had that right, too: "the most common and durable source of factions has been the various and unequal distribution of property. . . ."

Think about it. Virginia was planned as a commercial venture by businessmen, operating through a joint-stock company, who wanted to get rich. Southern colonies were founded on the distinctly medieval concept of landed estates populated by masters and slaves, and Pennsylvania attracted an influx of immigrants with its policy of freehold ownership which meant that farmers owned their land free and clear of leases. This disparity of colonial economic systems brought about the Civil War.

American society is fractured by differing religious groups, racial groups, groups based on national origin, political groups, and economic groups. Waves of immigration were and still are being fostered to provide needed labor for America's industrial enterprises, and although these waves of immigration are encouraged, the immigrants in each wave suffer racial and cultural discrimination. Assimilation, if it takes place at all, is slow and painful. **So, economic motives have a role in every aspect of creating what passes for American "society."**

Some Americans have a silly-putty view of human nature. They believe that persons who come to America from other cultures can be squeezed here and there and molded into Uncle Sams. They are to be assimilated by learning English and

adopting American customs and "values." But what the Americans who hold this belief don't realize is that if immigrants can be so squeezed to become model Americans, Americans can be squeezed to become as "un-American" as the others.

Americans often reject ideas because they are termed "foreign." For instance, socialism to Americans is a foreign ideology, but, although it goes unacknowledged, so is capitalism. Adam Smith and David Ricardo, the grandfathers of America's capitalist economic system, were not Americans. **In fact, hardly any ideologies that have taken root in American have American origins.** Certainly not Christianity, democracy, or hegemony. And the one American idea often boasted of has been totally ineffective—the melting pot. It never got hot enough to melt anything. **Fractionous groups created by the needs of the economic system make up America's uncivil society.** Andrew Arena, head of the FBI's field office in Detroit, has said "radical and extremist fringe groups . . . can be found throughout our society." But the factions prevalent in American society are not limited to the "radical and extremist fringe."

The fractionousness of these groups is fostered by America's elite. The strategy is one of divide and conquer. Politicians prey on hot-button issues to generate antagonism between groups: women's righters against pro-lifers, environmentalists against developers, social liberals against social conservatives, labor against management, union organizers against right-to-work advocates, the poor against the wealthy, Republicans against Democrats and both against anyone else, hegemonists against pacifists, believers against atheists and often against each other, heterosexuals against homosexuals, whites against other races, Tea Parties against Coffee Cuppers, state's rightists against federalists, and on and on. These group disparities are promoted to the point that they are not just ideological disputes. Many in these groups genuinely dislike those in other groups, and although overt display of this dislike is often disparaged, it is nevertheless quietly accommodated. **These antagonisms make unity unattainable. Divide and conquer has become divided we fall.**

In the days immediately following September 11, 2001, the mainstream press touted America's "coming together" in response to the attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center. But that coming together was quickly sundered. The Port Authority and the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation were soon at odds over how to redevelop the site. With much fanfare, a cornerstone was laid and secretly removed. Legal disputes over the attendant costs of illnesses related to the attacks are still in the court system. On the day of the attacks, New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani proclaimed, "We will rebuild. We're going to come out of this stronger than before, politically stronger, economically stronger. The skyline will be made whole again." But it hasn't. And many now doubt that Americans have been told the truth about what really happened on nine/eleven. **Not only is America a society at war with itself, there is little that Americans can even agree on.**

Madison claims "that the causes of faction cannot be removed." Perhaps! **But factionalism can be minimized, and the way to do it is not difficult to discern. All that needs to be done is for governments to enact legislation that enhances the well being of people rather than institutions and special interests.** Promoting an economic system that exploits the people and impoverishes them at fairly regular intervals, restrictions on freedom, and corruption of the political system are not effective ways of making friends and influencing people. They are, however, effective ways of promoting anger, sometimes to the point of hatred. **Any government anywhere, regardless of its form, democratic or authoritarian, that governs for the few rather than all generates factions. Such governments sooner or later lose their legitimacies and their societies implode.**

During the Revolutionary War, John Dickinson composed the Liberty Song. Its last stanza reads, "Then join hand in hand, brave Americans all, by uniting we stand, by dividing we fall; in so righteous a cause let us hope to succeed, for heaven approves of each generous deed." **Nations and the institutions they support fall unless governments, like decent men and women, exhibit compassion, generosity, and a concern for the welfare of real, living people. That's all that saving America requires.**

John Kozy is a retired professor of philosophy and logic who blogs on social, political, and economic issues. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he spent 20 years as a university professor and another 20 years working as a writer. He has published a textbook in formal logic commercially, in academic journals and a small number of commercial magazines, and has written a number of guest editorials for newspapers. His on-line pieces can be found on <http://www.jkozy.com/> and he can be emailed from that site's homepage.

John Kozy is a frequent contributor to Global Research.
Global Research [Articles](#) by John Kozy
Global Research [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:46 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Bob Burnett: The Next Civil War

The Next Civil War

by Bob Burnett [article link](#)

Published on Friday, April 2, 2010 by CommonDreams.org
(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

The Civil War ranks as the most costly of US wars, with 625,000 deaths and a comparable number of injuries. **Now the Republican Party is stoking the fires of insurrection and for thousands of right-wing zealots a new civil war seems a political necessity.** As increasing numbers of Democratic politicians are threatened, how long will it be before domestic terrorists use their weapons?

The first Civil War was precipitated by a dispute regarding slavery and states' rights. It was inflamed by volatile rhetoric and widespread use of guns.

The looming civil war reincarnates the debate about states' rights. Immediately after President Obama signed Healthcare Reform into law, several state Attorney Generals filed lawsuits arguing the Federal government violated the Constitution.

Rather than slavery, the new civil war is being waged over the necessity to guarantee human rights for all Americans - whether or not every citizen deserves healthcare. **Many Republicans feel this is not a legitimate use of government power, that it infringes on the sacred "free market."**

In the run up to the first Civil War, passions were inflamed by fiery rhetoric from secessionist politicians such as Jefferson Davis. **The impending civil war is being fed by mass-media personalities, such as Rush Limbaugh and Glenn Beck, who routinely feed their listeners blatant falsehoods.** The success of these demagogues was revealed in a March 23rd [Louis Harris poll of Republicans](#): 67 percent "believe that Obama is a socialist." 57 percent "believe that Obama is a Muslim." 45 percent believe that Obama "was not born in the United States and so is not eligible to be president." 38 percent of Republicans say the President is "doing many of the things that Hitler did." And, 24 percent believe Obama "may be the Antichrist."

Coupled with these skewed beliefs is increasingly strident rhetoric from Republican leaders. House minority leader John Boehner compared healthcare reform to "Armageddon" and declared the GOP to the Party of "Hell no." This refrain was picked up Senator John McCain and former Governor Sarah Palin, who added, "Freedom is a god-given right worth fighting for."

There's little doubt that the use of inflammatory language has increased the ratings of the [Fox News Channel](#), which is now the highest rated cable channel, and "the highest rated basic channel in primetime." **Fox commentators such as Glenn Beck and Bill O'Reilly regularly contend the US "is headed into socialism" and compare President Obama to Hitler.** On March 23rd, prominent conservative David Frum, a former George W. Bush speechwriter, appearing on [ABC Nightline](#) observed, "Republicans originally thought that Fox worked for us and now we're discovering we work for Fox."

Beck and his new Fox News associate, Sarah Palin, have appropriated the [rhetoric used by the Militia movement](#), **language that suggests violence may be required to "save" America.** Since Barack Obama became President there has been an unprecedented [run on guns](#) fomented by a right-wing rumor that Obama was going to restrict gun ownership. As documented in the Spring Report of the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#), there has also been an explosive growth of hate and

militia groups. "An astonishing 363 new Patriot groups appeared in 2009 - a 244% jump." (On March 29th, nine members of one of these groups [the Hutaree](#) were charged with conspiring to kill police officers.)

The Republican Party's embrace of militant extremism follows a grim logic. The GOP is losing members; a recent Washington Post/ABC News [poll](#) found that only 24 percent of respondents self-identified as Republicans - versus 34 percent for Democrats and 38 percent for Independents. Grasping for support, the GOP has abandoned traditional conservative ideology and allowed its message to be hijacked.

Unfortunately, the Republican Party lacks a leader with the gravitas to speak out against the escalating violence of its supporters. Elected Republicans such as Boehner, McCain, McConnell, and Steele are much less influential than are conservative media figures such as Beck, Limbaugh, O'Reilly, and Palin. As a result, as Fox News becomes even more outrageous, and violence against Democrats escalates, GOP leaders either claim to be powerless to stop it or argue the mainstream media has exaggerated the problem.

Meanwhile, a second civil war is brewing. Considering the volatile mixture of inflammatory rhetoric, weapons usage, and growth of militia groups, it appears likely there will be a tragic event: an assault on a Democratic politician, the burning of a congressional office, or another bombing of a Federal office building.

In 1860, the onset of the Civil War could have been averted. Dispassionate observers saw that the Confederacy did not have the resources required to defeat the Union. **In 2010, the impending Civil War should be averted. Right-wing zealots are a minority and do not have the resources to commandeer America. Nonetheless, they can cause needless bloodshed.**

What will it take for voices of reason to rise up within the Republican Party? How long will it be before a major Republican leader speaks out against domestic terrorism and urges the GOP to return to reason and reconciliation?

Bob Burnett is a retired executive founder of Cisco Systems who has a second career as a Berkeley writer. He can be reached at bobburnett@comcast.net

FBI Warns Extremist Letters May Encourage Violence

by Eileen Sullivan and Devlin Barrett [article link](#)

Published on Friday, April 2, 2010 by Associated Press

Associated Press [home page](#)

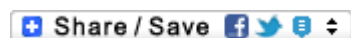
CommonDreams [home page](#)

Looting Main Street

How the nation's biggest banks are ripping off American cities with the same predatory deals that brought down Greece by MATT TAIBBI [article link](#)

Posted Mar 31, 2010 Rolling Stone

Rolling Stone [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:12 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Thursday, April 1, 2010

Gary G. Kohls: Way Past Time To Break Silence On Militarism

Easter 2010: Way Past Time To Break Silence On Militarism

By Gary G. Kohls, MD [article link](#)

01 April, 2010 Countercurrents.org

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

“A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death,” warned Martin Luther King Jr. in his famous speech at Riverside Church in New York City on April 4, 1967, 43 years ago this Easter Sunday.

The speech was titled “[Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence](#).” It was delivered exactly one year to the day before his 1968 assassination in Memphis.

The people who heard that speech recognized it as one of the most powerful speeches ever given articulating the immorality of the Vietnam War and its destructive impact on social progress in the United States. In explaining his decision to speak out, King said:

“I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demonic destructive suction tube. So I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy of the poor and to attack it as such.”

But King went farther, diagnosing a broader disease of militarism and violence that was afflicting the United States.

“I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today -- my own government,” King said.

King added that this disease of violence was killing more than social progress in America, but the nation’s soul as well. “If America’s soul becomes totally poisoned, part of the autopsy must read Vietnam,” he said.

King urged his fellow citizens to take up the causes of the world’s oppressed, rather than taking the side of their oppressors. He said:

“I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a ‘thing-oriented’ society to a ‘person-oriented’ society.

“When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism and militarism are incapable of being conquered.”

In a segment of the speech, cited often by President Barack Obama, King added: “We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late. Procrastination is still the thief of time. Life often leaves us standing bare, naked and dejected with a lost opportunity. ...

“We still have a choice today; nonviolent coexistence or violent co-annihilation. We must move past indecision to action. We must find new ways to speak for peace and justice throughout the developing world – a world that borders on our doors.

“If we do not act we shall surely be dragged down the long, dark and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality and strength without sight.”

King pointed to an alternate path into the future: “Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter – but beautiful – struggle for a new world. This is the calling of the sons of God, and our brothers wait eagerly for our response.

“Shall we say the odds are too great? Shall we tell them the struggle is too hard?”

Signing His Own Death Warrant

In hearing the speech, some of King’s followers understood that he was, most likely, signing his own death warrant by denouncing so forcefully the war crimes that the U.S. military was committing daily in the killing fields of Vietnam.

But King was speaking from a deep sense of moral outrage over the horrible suffering of the millions of Vietnamese civilians.

He knew that women and children were the main victims of modern warfare, especially wars that utilized so indiscriminately the massive arsenal of highly lethal weapons, including one of the U.S. Air Force’s favorites, napalm, which burned the flesh off of whatever part of the body that the flaming, jellied gasoline splashed onto.

King also connected the killing of dispensable “gooks” and “slants” on the battlefields of Southeast Asia to the oppression, impoverishment, imprisoning and lynching of dispensable blacks in America.

King linked the violence of racism to the violence of poverty to the violence of militarism. He traced them to the same sources, fear of “the other” and the perceived need to defend one’s own wealth and privilege, no matter how unjustly acquired.

King knew, too, that fortunes are made in every war, with the Vietnam War no exception. That, in turn, meant his Riverside Church speech was threatening not just the powerful interests already arrayed against his civil rights movement but also the interests of the national security establishment.

As the Vietnam War wore on, weapons manufacturers thrived. With their money, they financed battalions of industry lobbyists and pro-military propagandists to surge over political battlements in Washington to claim even more billions and billions of dollars for weapons research, development and manufacture.

With that funding secured, armies of workers were hired to staff hundreds of weapons factories, strategically located in congressional districts around the nation. Thus, arms manufacturing and wars became vital for the budgets of millions of Americans who directly or indirectly benefited from the unspeakable suffering of others in the war zone.

King’s strong anti-militarism stance – and his standing as an international icon for peace – made him a particularly dangerous threat to the military-industrial complex. There was a powerful motive to discredit and silence him, first by smear campaigns and later by an assassin’s bullet.

King’s Prophetic Vision

Now, more than four decades after his speech and his assassination, it’s clear how prophetic King’s observations were. Violence has become an American epidemic, especially the “triple evils” that King preached against: poverty, racism and militarism.

Gun violence results in world record-breaking levels of homicides and suicides in the United States. Yet, the influential gun industry has sabotaged even the most modest and common-sense handgun and assault rifle controls.

Both upper- and middle-class Americans have succumbed, starry-eyed, to the lure of well-propagandized predatory capitalism, looking for get-rich-quick schemes that eventually will tank in the predictable overblown economic bubbles that are bursting with increasing regularity. Those bubble bursts have wiped out many small investors, leaving the taxpayers to clean up the messes that were created by the so-called “invisible hand” of high-flying, conscienceless corporate gamblers

whose dirty deals are done in the proverbial “smoke-filled rooms” that virtually guarantee the success of their investments in compliant politicians. These “investments” are also known as “political campaign contributions”, and some of the most nefarious of the big winners are now bankrolling the attempts to destroy the Obama presidency that has been trying to deal with the economic crash that clearly originated in the previous administration.

For most Americans, who don’t have the cash to get into the big-money Wall Street casinos, there are lower-end addictive behaviors that result in occasional emotional “highs” such as entertainment, gambling, shopping, drugs (both legal and illegal), sex, sports and charismatic religions. Sadly, these adrenalin highs are always followed by emotional crashes, which are then usually self-treated by another hit with the substance or activity that produced the “high” in the first place, as commonly happens when the nicotine, caffeine, Paxil, Valium, Ritalin, cocaine or methamphetamine addict runs out of his stash, decreases his dose or tries to quit the addicting substance suddenly.

And, besides the many millions of domestic violence victims inside America, including tens of thousands of annual gun violence victims, there also are tens of millions of people around the world who have suffered from U.S. military interventions and the greedy exploiters whose interests invariably get protected – in Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East.

The hundreds of billions of American tax dollars wasted annually for war, war preparations and the massive, endless costs of the physical and mental health care that are needed by the combat-traumatized veterans is money that is then unavailable for programs of social uplift, including hunger relief, poverty reduction, affordable housing, education, health care or meaningful jobs.

The federal debt reached a crippling \$7 trillion during George W. Bush’s open-ended wars of the past decade, and that was before the economic crash of 2008, which pushed the debt to \$12 trillion. This unsustainable debt obligation will make social projects otherwise worth paying for unaffordable for decades into the future.

The Wall Street financiers and members of the investor class still profit handsomely from war – partly because federal borrowing to pay for war pays interest mostly to the upper classes (as well as foreign investors) – but the extravagant bill will eventually have to be paid back by us taxpayers, including Tea Partiers and Coffee Partiers, and our innocent children and grandchildren.

Regarding King’s warning about America’s spiritual death, many observers feel that the corpse has already been placed on the idolatrous altars of the Gods of War and Greed.

America’s non-peace churches (whether fundamentalist, conservative, moderate or liberal, with very few exceptions) have failed King’s vision. “Patriotic” churches have refused to take a consistent stand both for peace and against war.

On a political level, warmongering administrations, particular Bush’s, have been eliminating, one by one, the individual rights and noble ideals that America’s Founders articulated more than 200 years ago.

Possible Awakening? Or Are We Past the Point of No Return?

Yet, it may not be too late for a resuscitation attempt. But that can only happen if we awaken from our slumber and stop being distracted by the trivia that fills up our waking hours.

True democracy would require rejection of the clever political ad campaigns designed to get Americans to buy answers that further empower corporations and the military-industrial complex. There needs to be sharper awareness, too, of the slick propaganda that often masquerades as mainstream “news.”

There are other necessary steps as well: shaking off addictions to dangerous substances and behaviors that prevent clear-headed action; demanding the restoration of lost freedoms, especially from the latest Bush years; supporting the few true peace patriots hanging on in a broken Congress, most of whom are barely surviving in the “democratic wing of the Democratic Party.”

But perhaps most importantly, King’s central warning must be listened to. There must be an end to the financial and moral hemorrhaging from the many hot and cold wars that have entangled the United States around the globe, in the 130 countries where the U.S. maintains budget-busting military bases.

The Pentagon budget lately averages around \$700 billion per year which amounts to about \$2 billion per day with no visible return on investment, except for the military contractors, the oil industries and Wall Street financiers.

And, if peace doesn’t happen soon – if King’s 43-year-old warning continues to be ignored – America’s future is bleak. It holds the dark seeds of economic chaos, hyperinflation, worsening poverty, hunger, armed rebellion, street fighting, and perhaps, ultimately, a totalitarian police state.

Martin Luther King Jr. pointed toward a very different future in 1967. At that time, many Americans considered his vision too idealistic, the task too great, the obstacles too imposing and no will for the churches to reverse age-old religious dogmas. But many of them probably wish now they could turn the clock back and give King’s path a try.

King finished his speech with this conclusion and these challenges:

"War is not the answer. We still have a choice today; nonviolent coexistence or violent co-annihilation. We must move past indecision to action. We must find new ways to speak for peace and justice throughout the developing world – a world that borders on our doors. If we do not act we shall surely be dragged down the long dark and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality and strength without sight."

And he had these sobering words for the churches that are immersed in a polytheistic culture and thus are tempted to quietly ally themselves with the gods of wealth and war rather than the “one true God” of Love:

"I have traveled the length and breadth of Alabama, Mississippi and all the other southern states. I have looked at her beautiful churches with their lofty spires pointing heavenward. I have beheld the impressive outlay of her massive religious education buildings. Over and over again I have found myself asking: 'What kind of people worship here? Who is their God?'"

Today, the task is even tougher, the obstacles much more imposing, but the path remains. This Easter season should be a good time to seriously reconsider King’s challenges.

Dr. Kohls is a retired physician who writes about peace, justice, militarism, mental health and religious issues. He is a founding member of Every Church A Peace Church (www.ecapc.org).

CounterCurrents [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:47 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

David DeGraw: Time for a Second American Revolution - The 99% Movement

Amped Status Report(s):

Full Report: The Economic Elite Vs. The People of the United States of America

by David DeGraw [report link](#)

Posted on March 9th, 2010

Is It Time for Law Abiding American Citizens to Stop Paying Their Taxes and Start a New Government?

by David DeGraw [report link](#)

Posted on March 31, 2010

Amped Status Action Network

The Economic Elite Vs. The People of the United States of America

It's time for 99% of Americans to mobilize and aggressively move on common sense political reforms.

We will obviously have many differences on how our country should be run, but we can all come together to dismantle the Economic Elite by making several pivotal political reforms. As long as the game is rigged in favor of the Economic Elite, we will all lose. So let's find common ground and focus on several obvious battles that we need to win, and can win:

Election Reform

* **Electronic Voting:** First and foremost, no private corporation should be able to tell us who has won an election without providing an auditable paper trail. Many Democrats felt that Bush stole the 2000 and 2004 elections, and many Republicans felt Obama stole the 2008 election. Of course people are going to feel that elections are stolen when you have a private corporation secretly counting the votes; it is the inevitable result when you can't verify the election results. In the past few years companies that count the votes have been consolidating, and one company, ES&S, now secretly controls the majority of all our votes. As voting watchdog Brad Friedman stated, "With the ES&S takeover of Diebold/Premier, their nearest competitor, the privately-run election Goliath now has an un-overseeable lock on virtually every election in the United States of America." It is common sense to say that this is way too much power to be put into one private corporation.

* **Campaign Finance:** The stunning ruling by the Supreme Court to allow unlimited political spending by the Economic Elite has made a bad situation even worse. We must level the playing field by enacting laws to prevent the overwhelming influence of big money interests in controlling politicians who are forced to pander to them for the ever-increasing need to raise more and more money to have any shot at winning public office. Statistics show how much the Economic Elite already dominate this process: over 90% of the time the candidate who simply spends more money on their campaign wins the election.

* **The Two-Party Oligarchy:** We must end the two-party system by funding and voting for alternative parties. It is absurd and completely outdated to only have two dominant political parties in a technologically advanced nation of 309 million people. The two-party paradigm is obsolete and creates a system easily manipulated, as the past decade proves with the co-option of the Democratic and Republican parties. We can give our money and support to whomever we like - Libertarians, Tea Party, Progressives, Greens, Independents and the many soon-to-be-created political groups. However, it is pivotal that we immediately cease support for both the Republican and Democratic parties. We understand there are representatives from both parties who are fighting for our interests, but they are very few and easily marginalized by paid-off party leaders.

* **Getting on the Ballot:** Republicans and Democrats have created rules to make it increasingly difficult for opposing political parties to even get on the voting ballot. We must make this process easier and invite new parties onto the ticket.

* **Debate Commission:** The Democratic and Republican control over who is allowed to participate in the nationally televised debates gives the two parties an insurmountable advantage over any other parties. If you are not even allowed to participate in them, you have no shot at winning. Along with this, all candidates should be given a fair share of television coverage.

* **Voter Registration:** If you are a citizen, you should be automatically registered to vote.

Governmental Policy Formation

* **Secrecy, Transparency and Accountability:** Government secrecy is at the root of most of our current societal and economic problems. When decisions are made in secrecy, corruption will most often be the result. By throwing light and investigation on the government policy process, we can easily expose the Economic Elite's agenda and limit their influence. As part of this, all legislation and conference reports must be posted online prior to Congressional debate and vote.

* **Lobbying:** Along with campaign finance, political lobbying is another way the Economic Elite can easily manipulate our political process financially, in what amounts to legalized bribery. In 2009, a record amount of money was spent lobbying Congress, and now with the new Supreme Court ruling, lobbyists will have even more power to manipulate the political process with what amounts to buying the laws of our nation. Lobbying activities behind closed doors must cease entirely and equal time must be given, transparently, to all the parties directly affected by the law being written.

* **Shutting the Revolving Door:** No politician should be allowed to profit from government laws or policies which they have written or supported. The practice of leaving a major company to become a politician who then creates and/or supports laws that directly benefit the corporation he or she used to work for, or, conversely, politicians who leave public office to take a high-paying job for a company they have benefited, is a grotesque abuse and manipulation of the democratic process. The revolving door between politics and big business is worse than it has ever been and has corrupted the government like never before.

Information Platforms

* **Media Concentration:** Having a few large multinational corporations dominating the overwhelming majority of our news and information system will never lead to an informed citizenry. Only ten multinational corporations dominate our mainstream media system. These companies are run by 118 individuals who actively work to propagate Economic Elite rule. The people who run these media companies also sit on other corporate boards that often represent a major conflict of interest. Having only 118 people in ten companies dominating a system that creates public opinion for 309 million people is absurd. We must break up this information cartel and support a more diverse and vibrant independent press that fosters real investigative journalism.

* **Net Neutrality:** The free and open architecture of the Internet is vital to our success. Without an open Internet our most powerful medium for research and communication, and key organizing tool, will be lost. The Internet must be protected from growing forces that seek to control it by limiting our access to information and our ability to communicate on a mass scale.

Healthcare

* **Medical Costs:** We have disagreements on how to best provide healthcare, but we all agree that whatever the method, the result needs to be lower costs. We have the most expensive healthcare system in the world and we now pay twice as much as other nations. Other than creating huge salaries for health industry-related executives, there isn't any reason why we should be forced to pay such outrageous sums of money for second-rate care. No American should die due to lack of money, or have to face bankruptcy in order to get life-sustaining treatments.

* **Food and Water Supply:** Our food and water supply systems have become a major health hazard. The amount of harmful chemicals found in both our food and water have reached record levels and is causing alarming levels of sickness in a growing number of people.

Real Economic Competition

*** Most Americans Believe in Competition:** If a person works hard, is productive and good at what they do, most everyone believes that they should make more than a person who sits around looking for handouts. However, just as in sports, to maintain a competitive environment you have to have rules in place that prevent people from having an unfair advantage. For those who believe in competition, in capitalism and free markets, you have to acknowledge that what we have now is not a free market based on fair competition. It is a rigged market, where larger institutions like Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan have an unfair advantage. We cannot allow them to be beyond the law, manipulate the market and then receive taxpayer funds to increase profits and risk-taking while smaller companies, outside of Economic Elite circles, have to play by a much stricter set of rules.

You can't have free market capitalism when you have government policies favoring companies that have more political clout than others. What we have is socialism for the rich and trickle down economics for the rest of us. We have a market systemically designed to funnel money into the pockets of the richest. If the past few years have proved anything, they have proved that our economy is much more like a pyramid scheme than a free market, where the more money you have, the more money you make. So whatever your economic beliefs and theories might be, let's all come together to admit that our "free market" is an illusion. We need to make the economic playing field fair so that we can have real competition.

*** Redistribution of Wealth:** Due to the rigging of our economic and political system, vast sums of wealth have been hoarded by the Economic Elite over the past 40 years. This money must be redistributed to the 99% of Americans who have been robbed and exploited. There will be much heated debate over how this money should be distributed, but we all need to agree that we must first hold the Economic Elite accountable and our wealth must be seized from them.

*** Investigations and Prosecutions:** The Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission has the power to reveal the inner workings of the financial coup. We must apply intense public pressure and scrutiny to force the Commission into conducting a real investigation. Another urgent priority needs to be a much wider-ranging look at war profiteering. There has been some investigation, but not nearly enough and hardly any prosecution. These are just two of the many investigations that need to be launched. As long as we keep letting the Economic Elite get away with outright theft in broad daylight, we will never be able to restore a nation of law.

There are obviously other vital issues that need to be addressed, but these are the core common-ground issues that we must urgently rally around and support. Unless we organize and take decisive action on all these issues, we will all suffer the consequences of our collective inaction. Any politician who does not urgently move on these issues must be voted out of office and replaced by people who will aggressively fight on these fronts.

These are the core issues that keep the Economic Elite in power. As famed military strategist Carl von Clausewitz wrote in his study "On War," it is pivotal to strike at this core structure, at "the hub of all power and movement, on which everything depends."

GET INVOLVED: We are going to begin outreach to organizations that are working on these core common ground issues. If you plan to take action on any of these issues or would like to be involved in this effort, please sign up here: [article link](#)

Amped Status [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:08 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Amy Goodman: The Obscenity of War

The Obscenity of War

by Amy Goodman [article link](#) [article link](#)

Published on Wednesday, March 31, 2010 by TruthDig.com

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

President Barack Obama has just returned from his first trip as commander in chief to Afghanistan. The U.S.-led invasion and occupation of that country are now in their ninth year, amid increasing comparisons to Vietnam.

Daniel Ellsberg, whom Henry Kissinger once called "the most dangerous man in America," leaked the Pentagon Papers in 1971. Ellsberg, who was a top Pentagon analyst, photocopied this secret, 7,000-page history of the U.S. role in Vietnam and released it to the press, helping to end the Vietnam War.

"President Obama is taking every symbolic step he can to nominate this as Obama's war," Ellsberg told me recently. He cites the "**Eikenberry memos**," written by U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Karl Eikenberry, which were leaked, then printed last January by The New York Times.

Ellsberg said: "Eikenberry's cables read like a summary of the Pentagon Papers of Afghanistan. ... Just change the place names from 'Saigon' to 'Kabul' ... and they read almost exactly the same."

The Eikenberry memos recommend policies opposite those of Gens. David Petraeus and Stanley McChrystal, who advocated for the surge and a counterinsurgency campaign in Afghanistan. Eikenberry wrote that President Hamid Karzai is "not an adequate strategic partner," and that "sending additional forces will delay the day when Afghans will take over, and make it difficult, if not impossible, to bring our people home on a reasonable timetable." **Petraeus and McChrystal prevailed. The military will launch a major campaign in June in Afghanistan's second-largest city, Kandahar. Meanwhile, with shocking candor, McChrystal said in a video conference this week, regarding the number of civilians killed by the U.S. military, "We have shot an amazing number of people, but to my knowledge, none has ever proven to be a threat." U.S. troop fatalities, meanwhile, are occurring now at twice the rate of one year ago.**

Tavis Smiley has a PBS special this week on one of the most powerful, and overlooked, speeches given by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. The address was made on April 4, 1967, exactly one year to the day before King was assassinated. The civil rights leader titled his speech "Beyond Vietnam," and controversially called the U.S. government "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today."

The press vilified King. Time magazine called the speech "demagogic slander that sounded like a script for Radio Hanoi." Smiley told me: "Most Americans, I think, know the 'I Have a Dream' speech. Some Americans know the 'Mountaintop' speech given the night before he was assassinated in Memphis. **But most Americans do not know this 'Beyond Vietnam' speech.**" Smiley added, **"If you replace the words Iraq for Vietnam, Afghanistan for Vietnam, Pakistan for Vietnam, this speech is so relevant today."**

Like King, Obama is a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. In his acceptance speech, Obama mentioned King six times, yet defended his war in Afghanistan. Princeton University professor Cornel West, interviewed by Smiley, said of Obama's Nobel speech, "It upset me when I heard my dear brother Barack Obama criticize Martin on the global stage, saying that Martin Luther King Jr.'s insights were not useful for a commander in chief, because evil exists, as if Martin Luther King Jr. didn't know about evil."

In early March, Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio, offered a resolution to end the war in Afghanistan, saying: "We now have about 1,000 U.S. troops who have perished in the conflict. We have many innocent civilians who have lost their lives. We have a corrupt central government in Afghanistan that is basically stealing U.S. tax dollars." The resolution was defeated by

a vote of 356-65. A Washington Post poll of 1,000 people released this week found that President Obama enjoys a 53 percent approval rating on his handling of the war in Afghanistan.

The public is unlikely to oppose something that gets less and less coverage. While the press is focused on the salacious details of Republican National Committee spending on lavish trips, especially one outing to a Los Angeles strip club, the cost to the U.S. taxpayer for the war in Afghanistan is estimated now to be more than \$260 billion. **The cost in lives lost, in people maimed, is incalculable. The real obscenity is war.** Ellsberg hopes that the Eikenberry memos will be just the first of many leaks, and that a new wave of Pentagon Papers will educate the public about the urgent need to end Obama's war.

Denis Moynihan contributed research to this column.

© 2010 Amy Goodman

Amy Goodman is the host of "[Democracy Now!](#)," a daily international TV/radio news hour airing on 800 stations in North America. She was awarded the 2008 Right Livelihood Award, dubbed the "Alternative Nobel" prize, and received the award in the Swedish Parliament in December.

CommonDreams [home page](#)

truthdig [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:53 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

[Vi Ransel: Mass Unemployment in America](#)

The Plight of Mass Unemployment in America. What are the Causes?

Workhouse Nation: Part Two

by Vi Ransel [article link](#)

March 29, 2010 Global Research

(bold text emphasis added by MMr)

"The people who own the country ought to govern it." - John Jay, first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, 1789-1795

"We have to tolerate the inequality as a way to achieve a greater prosperity and opportunity for all." - Lord Brian Griffiths, Goldman Sachs international advisor, 2009

"The modern conservative is engaged in one of man's oldest exercises in moral philosophy; that is, the search for a superior moral justification for selfishness." - John Kenneth Galbraith

In an interview with Detroit Free Press and USA Today just before his "jobs summit" in December, President Obama said "It's just not going to be possible for us to have a huge second stimulus, because frankly, we just don't have the money." And "I want to be clear: while I believe the government has a critical role in creating the conditions for economic growth, ultimately true economic recovery is only going to come from the private sector." This was just two days after he announced a \$30 billion per year escalation of the war in Afghanistan. (emphasis added)

The president opened the summit itself by saying that we had to face the fact that our resources are too limited to finance job creation. But he failed to mention that the \$1.4 trillion deficit tripled last year's deficit due, in large part, to the bank bailout, which "according to the Inspector General of TARP, was allocated up to \$23.7 trillion (*of the people's money*) in cash handouts, loans, debt guarantees and other subsidies" to the financial sector. (1) That's in addition to the loss of \$1.3 trillion in revenue due to the Bush tax cuts that went overwhelmingly to the already superfluously wealthy. (2) (italics added)

The president asked the multimillionaire corporate CEOs assembled for the summit what he could do to get them to hire new workers. They demanded corporate tax cuts. The president told them "that he would propose tax incentives for hiring new employees, the dismantling of business regulations, and other measures that will do next to nothing to put jobless people back to work," but will, however, boost corporate profits. (3)

The \$100 billion the administration claims will go toward "job creation" is primarily credits to businesses that hire workers or raise wages, extended unemployment benefits, and aid to state and local governments. But even if the \$100 billion did create jobs, it would be two million jobs paying \$50,000 (or four million jobs paying \$25,000) for a projected 20 million unemployed or underemployed. (4)

In a nod to the jobless, the president asked that the unemployed "be patient" and "keep hope alive" as his administration pays down the deficit with "unprecedented fiscal austerity," and "sharp cuts in social spending." This was in addition to his repeated calls for the already poverty-stricken to cut their consumption - of medical care? of shelter?! of -- food?! - while funneling trillions to banks and the military, and giving billions to insurance and pharmaceutical corporations as well as looking to institute a national consumption, e.g. sales, tax and slashing spending for social programs.

"At the same time, the labor cost gap with Third World countries must be closed so the US can be transformed into a cheap labor platform to send US exports around the world. This is the administration's plan for 'economic recovery.'" (5) (emphasis added)

Once the American people are desperate and groveling for jobs, the "opulent minority" will use us to manufacture the things they were having made so cheaply in China - until China had the temerity to raise workers' wages to tamp down the threat of rebellion. With nearly eight million jobs wiped out since the recession began, mass unemployment is being used to drive down wages as close as possible to those of the most destitute and desperate of the world's people.

Wage and job-cutting, speed-ups, and cuts in social programs will allow the export of products made in American sweatshops as a condition of Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) imposed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which has already done a complete audit of the US financial system, something usually reserved for bankrupt "Third" World nations. Cuts in federal "spending must be put in place, in part, to convince creditors, especially China, that the US can get its finances back in order." (6) This is the "reasoning" behind SAPs. Immiserate citizens to satisfy creditors.

Former Wall Street bank director and Assistant Secretary of HUD for George H. W. Bush, Catherine Austin Fitts, calls what's happening to our economy "a criminally leveraged buyout." She says our country is being bought "cheap with its own money." **Using the IMF-World Bank template, a country's bankruptcy delivers "public assets and resources" to transnational corporations and cancels "national sovereignty." After a country is "driven to destitution," its government's public policy is created by its creditors and not by the people's representatives. (7)**

State and local governments, which may not run a deficit, will be forced to slash resources even further. And to "preserve bond ratings and the rights of creditors," public assets - water, natural resources, infrastructure - will be sold at huge discounts to global investors in order to "save America," which will wind up owned by its creditors (much like your house). In other words, social spending programs that promote the general welfare will be frozen, while national "security" spending skyrockets, and there won't be even a hint of a tax increase for the "opulent minority." Neither will there be a jobs program or a halt in foreclosures. Wages and living standards will plummet while banks continue to boom.

"Increasingly, America is owned by super wealthy foreign interests. ...for example...CIC, the China Investment Corporation"... owns ..."stakes in dozens of major U.S. companies. ...Aetna, Apple, Bank of America, Coca-Cola, Eli Lilly, Goodyear, Johnson & Johnson, MetLife, Visa, and Wells Fargo. ...CIC is funded from China's...\$42.4 trillion...in foreign reserves..." much of which is generated by "... American consumers, businesses, and even governments that keep buying products imported from China. So, CIC is using our exported dollars to buy our domestic corporations and banks. ...For

example, last year when Morgan Stanley boasted that it was repaying the Wall Street bailout money it got from us taxpayers, it didn't mention that nearly \$2 billion of the payback came from selling a chunk of itself to CIC." (8)

But: "...if American imperialism is to maintain its position of world domination, domestic politics and social relations within the US must be radically restructured. The resources required to sustain a global military posture and to prevent undue dependence on foreign creditors must be extracted from the American working people through the gutting and effective destruction of the programs which consume the bulk of the federal budget - Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid." (9)

Also headed for the deep freeze are the Departments of Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, Energy, and Justice, which will receive, altogether, \$250 billion in federal funding for 2010. **The military, the wars and the Department of Homeland Security will get \$700 billion, almost triple that. This is also more than the "defense" budget of the rest of the world combined.** But there's no talk of reductions here. (10)

Exempt also are the bank bailouts and interest on the national debt - \$125 billion in 2010. And trillions over the next ten years will keep going to the same financial corporations that got trillions of our dollars in government guarantees and loans. The administration's own estimate of the money the freeze will save is \$250 billion over the next ten years, or three percent of the \$9 trillion estimate of new debt. The \$15 billion the administration claims the freeze will save next year is one percent of the Congressional Budget Office's budget deficit projection. (11)

The freeze barely touches the deficit. Economist Paul Krugman estimates that without the freeze, total public debt would be 78.7% of US GDP by 2020. With the freeze the figure, according to the administration, would be 77.2%, a difference of one point five percent! (12) That's all it takes to justify the destruction of necessary social programs. **In other words, once bankers and generals get their cut of our money, we won't even get crumbs. The plan is to sacrifice millions of our livelihoods via mass unemployment to please the bond market.** (13)

The 2,585-page, \$3.8 trillion 2011 budget allocates a mandatory 59% for programs like Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, Unemployment and Pell Grants. Another 34% is "discretionary" spending on programs such as education, transportation, housing, the environment, energy, science and the military. The last 7% pays our national debt service. (14)

Let's look at that "discretionary" spending. Two-thirds of it, according to the National Priorities Project (NPP), will go for national security. Only 11% of our tax dollars dedicated to "discretionary" spending will be spent on non-security concerns. In other words, President Obama's plan leaves 89% of the budget untouched. Only domestic social service plans are eligible for cuts. **NPP estimates military spending over ten years will increase more than \$500 billion, twice the \$250 billion savings predicted from cuts in non-security discretionary spending over ten years.** But the Defense Department already has \$295 billion in cost overruns in 96 major weapons programs. This, all by itself, will wipe out any savings from a non-security discretionary freeze. (15)

The Air Force's C-17 cargo planes alone, at \$330 million each, with a total program cost of \$65 billion, got \$2.5 billion from Congress in 2010 for ten of these planes that the Pentagon didn't even ask for! That \$2.5 billion, in 2010, could provide health care for 141,681 people, pay 6,138 public safety officers, 4,649 music and art teachers, and 4,568 elementary school teachers. There would still be enough left for 22,610 college scholarships, 46,130 Pell Grants, 1,877 affordable housing units, renewable electricity for 382,679 homes and 29,630 free Head Start programs - all for the cost of ten, unasked for C-17s. (16)

And while the freeze exempts the Pentagon, the payment of existing debt, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, the president has plans for those three social programs. He's created a "bipartisan" commission that the Wall Street Journal calls the **"Political Cover Commission."** "A gang of ten Democrats and eight Republicans would be charged to come up with ways to reduce the deficit. The idea is for everyone to hold hands and agree to raise taxes and cut entitlement spending together (Medicare, Social Security, etc.) so neither party gets the blame." (17)

Obama picked Democrat Erskine Bowles, a banker and former Clinton chief of staff, and Republican Alan Simpson, a retired Wyoming senator, to head the commission. "In an interview with the Washington Post... Simpson virtually spat out

his hatred of any government program that guarantees basic necessities. 'How did we get to a point in America where you get to a certain age in life, regardless of net worth or income, and you're 'entitled'?' (emphasis added) Former investment banker Erskine Bowles is currently on Morgan Stanley's board. He was also a General Motors director from 2005 until its bankruptcy last year. Both companies were big beneficiaries of the administration's bailouts. (18)

The "opulent minority" is demanding measures that can't be put into place by democratic means because the majority of the American people oppose them. The insistence on bipartisanship means that both the Republican and Democratic halves of the Money Party must stop their political dog and pony show and close ranks against the majority of the American people.

Still, the president's healthcare summit ended without an agreement between Republicans and Democrats just a day after he appeared at the **Business Roundtable** and pledged allegiance to the free market while reassuring the assembled CEOs that his plan would improve the competitiveness of their corporations. **"I believe businesses like yours are the engines of economic growth in this country. You create the jobs. I firmly believe that America's success in large part depends on your success."** Not!!! **US corporations cut millions of jobs since 2007, and just the past year alone makes it clear that corporate success has nothing to do with promoting the general welfare.**

The healthcare plan itself mirrors the one that passed the Senate. And while it doesn't say just where most funding will be cut, hundreds of billions of dollars will likely be slashed from Medicare. The plan doesn't mention universal health coverage or a public option, or a national insurance "exchange." Employers won't have to provide insurance for workers, and insurance and pharmaceutical corporate profits won't be constrained.

But individuals as well as families will be forced to buy insurance or pay a penalty, and over twenty million people will still have no healthcare coverage at all. The only differences from the Senate plan are tweaks in the amount of the fines, and the point at which exemptions from penalties kick in. **The result is the same, billions funneled to insurance companies.** (19)

The president called healthcare, and not the insurance and drug corporations' unconscionable prices, an "undeniable drag on our economy." He wants "a health care system that is not a drag on business," in which reduced labor costs equal increased profit. He explained that his plan is just the opposite of a government takeover, and that it would deliver "more customers to insurers."

He did refer to the Wall Street bank bailout as the reason for defunding social programs. "The steps we took to save the economy from depression last year have necessarily added to the deficit. But I've also said that we intend to (*make the people*) pay for what we added" (*when we gave trillions, no questions asked, to Wall Street*). (italics and emphasis added)

He said his administration has "identified more than 120 programs for elimination." He repeated his State of the Union goal of doubling US exports (Of what?!) in five years by pursuing a "more strategic and aggressive effort to open up new markets for our goods," and "send(ing) more products overseas" and "borrow(ing) less and produce(ing) more."

But **"The US now has a trade deficit with every part of the world.** ...What is striking about US dependency on imports is that it is practically across the board. Americans are dependent on imports of foreign foods, feeds, and beverages... Americans are dependent on imports of industrial supplies and materials... more than three times US dependency on OPEC. ...Americans can no longer provide their own transportation. They are dependent on imports of automotive vehicles, parts, and engines... 1.5 times greater than US dependency on OPEC. ...Americans are 3.4 times more dependent on imports of manufactured consumer durable and non-durable goods than they are on OPEC. ...Americans no longer can produce their own clothes, shoes, or household appliances... The US 'superpower' even has a deficit in capital goods, including machinery, electric generating equipment, machine tools, computers, and telecommunications equipment." (20)

So, what are we capable of exporting, and how could we afford to manufacture it here? And while the president talks about doubling the export of products made in the USA, he also said he'd modified his proposal to eliminate loopholes that allow US corporations to make money overseas so they can avoid paying taxes. This proposal was originally designed to raise up to \$210 billion, but after listening to corporations complain that these loopholes let them do better against overseas competition, the president changed his mind. (21)

The record-breaking profits of insurance and pharmaceutical corporations in 2009 barely got a mention. Instead the president re-committed himself to defending for-profit insurance and touting a market-based, rather than a government-administered approach. And he went out of his way to emphasize that his priorities were controlling government spending and reducing the deficit.

The administration is narrowly focused on the interest payments on the national debt, which go primarily to the "opulent minority" of Americans and to foreign creditors. In other words, we're paying interest to this "opulent minority" for borrowing to finance the cost (among other things) of their Bush tax cuts. (22) **This means that "...America will always have a deficit.** Our deficit will never go away because our ruling class lives off the interest from the deficit. They love the deficit. They appear to be wringing their hands about having a deficit - but **the real reason that we have a deficit is to keep the ruling class wealthy.**" (23) (emphasis in original)

So the president's healthcare plan is essentially the status quo, except that insurance corporations will see their profits rise even further, though last year the largest US health insurance corporations set new profit records. **As millions of Americans lost their jobs and their homes, the top five insurance corporations averaged an increase of 56% over 2008.** (24)

Wellpoint profits increased 91% over 2008, setting a new record for annual income, while total enrollment dropped by 1.4 million. Cigna profits skyrocketed 346% in 2009, another new record, even as enrollment dropped by 639,000. Profits at Humana were up 61% over 2008. United Health Group profits were up 28% over 2008, while enrollment dropped by 680,000. And at Aetna, profits shrank by 8% as enrollment increased 1.2 million, or 6.9%. (25) This proves that increasing coverage can negatively effect an insurance corporation's bottom line.

"If we have to chose between achieving our membership goals and achieving our profitability goals, profits will win every time." - Humana CEO Michael McCallister, 2003 "We will not sacrifice profitability for membership." - Wellpoint CEO Angela Braly, 2008

Could it be any clearer? **Our health is a commodity to be bought and sold, numbers on a corporate spread sheet, a mere means to create profit and a life of luxury for a parasitic "elite" of shareholders who sit atop the rest of us as if we were a throne.**

In his interview with Bloomberg Business Week, the president even made a point of explaining that everything he's done and intends to do is in the interest of corporations. "...if you actually look at our policies, everything that we have done over the last year, and everything we intend to do over the next several years, I think is going to put American business on a stronger footing."

He explained that his administration's policies, which consist primarily of a multi-trillion dollar, no questions asked, giveaway to banks, have restored the country to economic health. "We had an economy that was contracting at 6%. It is now growing by 6%. We had a market that people had no idea where it would bottom out, and that market has now stabilized. **We had a banking system that was on the verge of meltdown that is now showing significant health, at least in terms of their bottom lines. And so the steps we have taken, I think, created an environment in which business can be profitable.**" (What about stabilizing the well-being of American citizens now in meltdown?) (emphasis added)

He didn't mention the fact that "business," e.g. corporations, "disappeared" millions of people's jobs, many of them overseas to other countries' economies via our Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), or that his administration has done next to nothing to address the situation but cut taxes for corporations.

He worried about mass opposition building toward Wall Street and the corporate elite, but the important message he had for the corporate community, which he stresses during his lunches with corporate CEOs, and he has lots of lunches with corporate CEOs, was that "...we have every interest in you succeeding... we want and need more input from the corporate community just so we can communicate to the corporate community the fact that, if you look at our actual policies, as opposed to the speculation around our policies, they have been fundamentally business friendly." (When was the last time

you had lunch with your president to provide him with some input? And when did your community last meet with your elected representatives?)

The president also announced future corporate tax cuts. "This year I will sign legislation that will cut corporate taxes by about \$7 billion... This notion, somehow, that we have been putting this enormous tax burden on business is just not true. It is not supported by facts."

His long term strategy for increasing corporate profits is increasing exports by decreasing US labor costs and pressing China to increase the value of its currency. He "referred to government-sponsored loans for General Motors and Chrysler **which were conditioned on massive pay and benefit cuts for auto workers, along with the destruction of thousands of jobs.**" (26) In effect, he gave corporations loans and made the workers pay for them. (emphasis added)

That was "an example of a very hard decision and a very politically unpopular decision that from my vantage point is pro-business," the president said. This attack echoed that of his idol Ronald Reagan's firing of PATCO, and signaled corporations that cost-cutting and wage reductions could be used to fatten their bottom line. "You would be hard-pressed to identify a piece of legislation that we have proposed out there that, net, is not good for business." "We are pro-growth. We are fierce advocates for a thriving dynamic free market." (27) (How about something that is, net, good for the majority of tax-paying citizens and not offshoring, tax-evading, job-destroying transnational corporations?)

And when asked what he thought about multi-million dollar Wall Street bonuses, the president said "(And) I like most of the American people, don't begrudge people success or wealth. That is part of the free market system." (But is such grotesque inequality part of democracy?)

Obama essentially used his health care summit, his Business Roundtable speech and the Bloomberg Business Week interview to showcase Democratic reform as the pinnacle of fiscal responsibility and austerity. But what it is is cost-cutting and rationing healthcare for the majority of Americans while blatantly defending insurance company profits. The president made it clear where he stands. "There are some who have suggested scrapping our system of private health insurance and replacing it with government run health care. Though many other countries have such a system, in America it would neither be practical or realistic."

He neglected to say why, but all the usual suspects attended the healthcare summit - UnitedHealth Group, WellPoint, Aetna, Humana, and Cigna Corp - and **the president reassured them that drastic cutbacks would not affect their bottom lines.** "The rising cost of Medicare and Medicaid will sink the government deeper and deeper in debt. On this we all agree." (Not the bank bailout, the military, the Bush tax cuts, or corporate welfare?) **"The bottom line is, our proposal is paid for."** *(on the backs of the American people, just like the bank bailout, the wars, the tax cuts for the embarrassingly wealthy and giveaways to corporations.)*

The president has said, that "For far too long, Washington has avoided the tough choices necessary to solve the financial crisis." "Everything is on the table." But one of the most obvious solutions, taking the profit out of health care, was never really allowed on the table, let alone seriously considered. The "debate" was dominated by an "opulent minority," economically parasitic and rapacious in its social outlook, which accrues to itself ever more of the national wealth.

The continued growth of profits is becoming increasingly incompatible with a decent standard of living for the workers who create the real wealth of society. As American global economic hegemony declines and the vast polarization of our society increases, past democratic reforms can't continue if profits are to keep growing. **The general welfare of the majority is now an intolerable drain on corporate profit and the personal fortunes of the "opulent minority."** (28)

Though corporations, aided and abetted by union management as well as Congress, "have been able to drive down wages and increase productivity, they have not been able to put a brake on spiraling medical costs for employee insurance coverage..." (29) "Reform" will allow both the government and the corporations to jettison any responsibility whatsoever to

fund healthcare, forcing the working population to pay for the cost of insurance corporations' profits so other corporations won't have to.

Robert Reich, Clinton's Labor Secretary, has posited that there's a "radical restructuring of the economy that is going on behind the scenes." In other words, behind the people's backs. "...people who lost their jobs were pushed into lower paying jobs..." And those who had lower paying jobs were pushed out entirely, while bank, and other corporate profits, continue to escalate. **Corporations continue to consolidate, further concentrating power in the hands of their shareholders, as real property/wealth is distributed upward to the "opulent minority."**

And now all of us freeloading, entitlement-grasping working people on whom they not only depend, but whom they themselves have immiserated, must be made to pay for the "opulent minority's" good times via a present-day version of the Victorian workhouse.

The **Enclosure Acts** in Britain forced people off the land they'd worked by right for centuries, fencing them out, driving them into the "great dim sheds" of the Industrial Revolution (1700-1800). Though Britain amassed natural and financial resources from its colonies and profits from its slave trade, this made up only 5% of Britain's national income during the Industrial Revolution. Britain's dense population for its small size, and the Enclosure of common land created a readily available labor supply. **And it was through the Enclosure movement, in large part, that the peasantry was destroyed as a meaningful resistance and removed the obstacles to Britain's mandate of capitalism.**

And while prior to the Protestant Reformation (1517-1648), it had been a Christian's duty to undertake the seven corporal works of mercy: feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; welcome the stranger; clothe the naked; visit the sick; visit the prisoner; and bury the dead, after the Reformation, "outdated," other-directed values became inconvenient. **Moral expectations and noblesse oblige disappeared and it became necessary to regulate poor relief by law.**

The moral economy was replaced by a political economy in which the well-off had no moral obligation to help the ill, the aged, the widowed, the orphaned or the unemployed. Such obligations were replaced with a cash payment which destroyed both the human link between the haves and the have-nots, as well as the right of the poor to claim relief in times of hardship, like illness, a hard winter or trade depressions. And with the appearance of laissez-faire economic theory, poverty came to be seen as the result of self-chosen immorality, irresponsibility, or idleness, or an inherent weakness or inferiority - all of which were used to justify leaving the destitute to their destitution at the "invisible hand" of the "free" market.

At approximately the same time, **Thomas Malthus** was expounding his theory that the relief of poverty itself created poverty. In other words, those who could not work should, if necessary, starve rather than have government provide any kind of relief because it "distorted" the "free" market that determined the "natural" level of wages and prices. The "law" of supply and demand had to be allowed to operate freely without acknowledging that the "free" market was often the cause of unemployment/idleness. This "natural law" assumed that people would work for any wage offered rather than starve themselves and their families (which was exactly the point) and in order for wages to rise, the labor supply had to become scarce through starvation, disease and/or exposure to the elements.

There's a modern version of this theory at work today in South Carolina, where "Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer has compared giving government assistance to 'feeding stray animals.' 'My grandmother was not a highly educated woman, but she told me as a small child to quit feeding stray animals. You know why? Because they breed. You're facilitating the problem if you give an animal or a person ample food supply.' 'How do you fix it? Well you say, look, if you receive goods or services from the government, then you owe something back.' 'We can't afford to keep just giving money away.'" He said that government continues to reward bad behavior by giving money to people who 'don't have to do a thing.' (30)

He failed to mention Bush's \$1.3 trillion tax cut for the disgustingly wealthy. Nor did he touch on tax breaks, abatements and subsidies to our largest corporations. He seems to have forgotten the more than \$23 trillion allocated to the banks, no questions asked, or the onerous workfare obligations imposed on those who receive public assistance and the tax on unemployment benefits.

Britain's remedy for fixing the problem of giving money to people who "don't have to do a thing" was workhouses. Workhouses had appeared in Britain in the 1600s as places for people to live and work when they couldn't support themselves. The unemployed, able-bodied poor could only get relief by going into these workhouses, even if trade depressions had caused their "idleness." The work, like factory work, was continuous, boring, hard and degrading. They crushed bones, broke stones and "picked" oakum, e.g. unbraided bits of used, tarry rope, the fibers of which were then used as caulk for sailing ships. **The workhouse, like workfare, was used as a deterrent.** And as they are for welfare, conditions were made as harsh and degrading as possible so only the truly desperate would apply to "the house." And once poor parents entered a workhouse, they were held to have forfeited responsibility for their children, enabling landlords to take them as unpaid "apprentices" until they came of age, 18 for girls, 24 for boys.

At the same time, debtors could be locked up "until their families paid their debt. Some debt prisoners were released into debt bondage to become indentured servants until they paid off their debt in labor." (31) (emphasis added)

And in fact, two to three Europeans who came to the American colonies were debtors when they got here. Some colonies, like Georgia, were supposed to be debtors' asylums. In 1789, the Society for the Relief of Distressed Debtors determined that of 1,162 debtors in New York's debtors' prison in 1787 and 1788, over half, 716 of them, owed less than 20 shillings. In 1831 imprisonment for debt was abolished in New York, and in 1841 Congress passed a law that offered bankruptcy to everyone. **Debtors' prisons all over America were finally abolished and bankruptcy laws liberalized as Americans realized that most people do not fall into debt of their own choosing - or as a result divine retribution.** (32)

But in 2009 in Georgia, people who couldn't pay their fines - plus the monthly fee to the private corporation that collects the payments - were often sent to jail, according to Stephen Bright, President of the Southern Center for Human Rights. And in 2006, the center sued on behalf of a woman locked up for eight months in Atlanta because she couldn't pay a \$705 fine. And until a few years ago in Gulfport, Mississippi, defendants who couldn't pay their fines were put in jail 'til they "sat off" their fines. (33)

Barbara Ehrenreich points out that while debtors' prisons no longer exist, a creditor can petition a court to issue a summons for nonpayment of a bill. If you fail to appear you're in contempt of court, which lands you in jail - where you can run up more debt. An increasing number of prison systems charge their inmates for room and board. Taney County, Missouri charges \$45 a day, Springfield, Oregon charges \$60, and New Jersey is considering a \$10-15 day fee. Nobody knows what happens if an inmate can't pay. More time in jail to "sit it off?" (34)

Prisoners' rights advocates worry that as government budgets come increasingly under pressure, courts and prisons will get even tougher about forcing indigent defendants to pay cost and fees, and will imprison more of them if they can't come up with the money, **in effect imprisoning them for poverty.** (35)

In America prior to the 1930s and Social Security, destitute elderly poor people went to the poorhouse, or workhouse. Such "houses" were widespread in America. Poorhouses were often on "poor farms," where any able-bodied residents were made to work. These could be part of the same economic complex as a prison farm, and most produced at least some of the produce, grain and livestock they consumed, like serfs working on a medieval manor, or Victorian residents of a workhouse. "Residents" (inmates) were expected to provide labor to the extent that their health would allow, in the fields as well as providing housekeeping and care for other residents. Rules were strict and accommodations minimal. (36)

Now the "opulent minority" is instituting another set of Enclosure Acts. This time, rather than fencing us out, they've built a fence to keep us in. The wage slave system wasn't escape-proof enough, so we've been enclosed within a fence of debt from which there is no escape. To that end wages will be halved - again. Foreclosures strictly carried out. Insurance for health, like that for cars, will be mandatory. Unions have already been neutralized, reduced to shells of their former selves. Free speech is relegated to zones behind barbed wire fences policed by minions of mammon armed with gas, guns and tasers. And now that Obama's healthcare "reform" has become law, the workhouses of Victorian England will pale by comparison with the "great dim sheds" of our new plantation-poor farms constructed by Halliburton.

"For in every city these two opposite parties (people v. aristocracy) are to be found, arising from the desire of the populace to avoid oppression of the great, and the desire of the great to command and oppress the people.... For when the nobility see that they are unable to resist the people, they unite in exalting one of their number and creating him prince, so as to be able to carry out their own designs under the shadow of his authority." Machiavelli, The Prince, Chap IX.

"Do not put your trust in princes..." - Psalm 146:3

"We have stricken the shackles from 4,000,000 human beings and brought all labourers to a common level, but not so much by the elevation of former slaves as by reducing the whole working population, white and black, to a condition of serfdom. While boasting of our noble deeds, we are careful to conceal the ugly fact that by our iniquitous money system we have manipulated a system of oppression which, though more refined, is no less cruel than the old system of chattel slavery." - Horace Greely

Notes

- (1) Barry Grey, "Obama's jobs summit: 'No money for jobs'" wsws 12/5/09
- (2) Lee Sustar & Alan Maass, "A budget only Republicans could love" SocialistWorker.org, 2/3/10
- (3) Barry Grey, *ibid.*
- (4) Patrick Martin, "Obama Budget: war, debt and cuts in social services" wsws 2/2/10
- (5) Jerry White, "Obama announces fraudulent 'jobs' summit," wsws, 11/13/09
- (6) Wall Street Journal 1/4/10)
- (7) Mike Whitney, Counterpunch , 4/2005
- (8) Jim Hightower, "Buying America - With Our Dollars," jimhightower.com, 3/5/10
- (9) Peter Martin, "Obama's budget reveals the bankruptcy of American capitalism," wsws 2/3/10
- (10) Tom Eley, "Obama to impose freeze on social spending," wsws, 1/27/20
- (11) Tom Eley, *ibid.*
- (12) Lee Sustar & Alan Maass, "A budget that only Republicans could love," wsws 2/3/10
- (13) Lee Sustar & Alan Maass, *ibid.*
- (14) Jo Comerford, "A Titanic Budget in an Ocean of Icebergs," TomDispatch.com, 2/28/10
- (15) Jo Comerford, *ibid.*
- (16) Jo Comerford, *ibid.*
- (17) Wall Street Journal, 1/21/10
- (18) Patrick Martin, "Bipartisan campaign targets US working class," wsws, 2/18/10
- (19) Kate Randall, "Obama unveils health plan ahead of bipartisan summit," wsws, 2/23/10
- (20) Paul Craig Roberts, "American Economy: R.I.P." Information Clearing House, 9/10/07
- (21) Tom Eley "Obama courts US corporate elite", wsws 2/25/10
- (22) Patrick Martin, "Obama Budget: War, Debt and Cuts in Social Services," wsws, 2/2/10
- (23) John Harvey from Jane Stillwater's, "John Harvey: Why America will never be socialist," Smirking Chimp, 8/19/09
- (24) Figures - Health Care for America Now
- (25) Kate Randall, "US health insurers reap record profits in 2009," wsws, 2/19/10
- (26) Joe Kishore, "Obama affirms right-wing, pro-business policies in interview," wsws, 2/15/10
- (27) Joe Kishore, *ibid.*
- (28) Kate Randall, "Obama's health care agenda amd the case for a socialist alternative," wsws, 2/27/10
- (29) Kate Randall, "An attack on health care in the guise of reform," wsws, 3/2/10)
- (30) Nathaniel Cary, "Bauer: Needy 'owe something back' for aid," The Greenville News, 1/23/10
- (31) Debtors' Prison, Wikipedia
- (32) Jill Lepore, "I.O.U." The New Yorker, 4/13/09
- (33) Editorial, the New York Times, The New Debtors' Prisons, 4/6/09
- (34) Marlys Harris, "Could Debtors' Prison Make a Comeback?" moneywatch.bnet.com, 8/10/09
- (35) Editorial, the New York Times, *ibid.*
- (36) Poorhouse, Wikipedia

Vi Ransel is a retired writer of Elementary Educational Materials and Corporate Communications, who never thought she'd be returning to the Gilded Age - and beyond, when America was ruled by a Unitary Executive (King George III) and the largest transnational corporation in the world (the British East India Company). She can be reached at rosiesretrocycle@yahoo.com.

Vi Ransel is a frequent contributor to Global Research.

Global Research [Articles](#) by Vi Ransel

Global Research [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:51 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

[Mammon or Messiah research](#)

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

[Noam Chomsky: Globalization Marches On](#)

Globalization Marches On

Growing popular outrage has not challenged corporate power.

by Noam Chomsky [article link](#)

Published on Friday, March 26, 2010 by the [New York Times Syndicate](#)

Shifts in global power, ongoing or potential, are a lively topic among policy makers and observers. One question is whether (or when) China will displace the United States as the dominant global player, perhaps along with India.

Such a shift would return the global system to something like it was before the European conquests. Economic growth in China and India has been rapid, and because they rejected the West's policies of financial deregulation, they survived the recession better than most. Nonetheless, questions arise.

One standard measure of social health is the U.N. Human Development Index. As of 2008, India ranks 134th, slightly above Cambodia and below Laos and Tajikistan, about where it has been for many years. China ranks 92nd-tied with Belize, a bit above Jordan, below the Dominican Republic and Iran.

India and China also have very high inequality, so more than a billion of their inhabitants fall far lower on the scale.

Another concern is the U.S. debt. Some fear it places the U.S. in thrall to China. But apart from a brief interlude ending in December, Japan has long been the biggest international holder of U.S. government debt. Creditor leverage, furthermore, is overrated.

In one dimension-military power-the United States stands alone. And Obama is setting new records with his 2011 military budget. Almost half the U.S. deficit is due to military spending, which is untouchable in the political system.

When considering the U.S. economy's other sectors, Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz and other economists warn that we should beware of "**deficit fetishism**." A deficit is a stimulus to recovery, and it can be overcome with a growing economy, as after World War II, when the deficit was far worse.

And the deficit is expected to grow, largely because of the hopelessly inefficient privatized health care system-also virtually untouchable, thanks to business's ability to overpower the public will.

However, the framework of these discussions is misleading. The global system is not only an interaction among states, each pursuing some "national interest" abstracted from distribution of domestic power. That has long been understood.

Adam Smith concluded that the "principal architects" of policy in England were "merchants and manufacturers," who ensured that their own interests are "most peculiarly attended to," however "grievous" the effects on others, including the people of England.

Smith's maxim still holds, though today the "principal architects" are multinational corporations and particularly the financial institutions whose share in the economy has exploded since the 1970s.

In the United States we have recently seen a dramatic illustration of the power of the financial institutions. In the last presidential election they provided the core of President Obama's funding.

Naturally they expected to be rewarded. And they were-with the TARP bailouts, and a great deal more. Take Goldman Sachs, the top dog in both the economy and the political system. The firm made a mint by selling mortgage-backed securities and more complex financial instruments.

Aware of the flimsiness of the packages they were peddling, the firm also took out bets with the insurance giant American International Group (AIG) that the offerings would fail. When the financial system collapsed, AIG went down with it.

Goldman's architects of policy not only parlayed a bailout for Goldman itself but also arranged for taxpayers to save AIG from bankruptcy, thus rescuing Goldman.

Now Goldman is making record profits and paying out fat bonuses. It, and a handful of other banks, are bigger and more powerful than ever. The public is furious. People can see that the banks that were primary agents of the crisis are making out like bandits, while the population that rescued them is facing an official unemployment rate of nearly 10 percent, as of February. The rate rises to nearly 17 percent when all Americans who wish to be fully employed are counted.

Bringing Obama to Heel

Popular anger finally evoked a rhetorical shift from the administration, which responded with charges about greedy bankers. "I did not run for office to be helping out a bunch of fat-cat bankers on Wall Street," Obama told 60 Minutes in December. This kind of rhetoric was accompanied with some policy suggestions that the financial industry doesn't like (e.g., the Volcker Rule, which would bar banks receiving government support from engaging in speculative activity unrelated to basic bank activities) and proposals to set up an independent regulatory agency to protect consumers.

Since Obama was supposed to be their man in Washington, the principal architects of government policy wasted little time delivering their instructions: Unless Obama fell back into line, they would shift funds to the political opposition. "If the president doesn't become a little more balanced and centrist in his approach, then he will likely lose" the support of Wall Street, Kelly S. King, a board member of the lobbying group Financial Services Roundtable, told the New York Times in early February. Securities and investment businesses gave the Democratic Party a record \$89 million during the 2008 campaign.

Three days later, Obama informed the press that bankers are fine "guys," singling out the chairmen of the two biggest players, JP Morgan Chase and Goldman Sachs: "I, like most of the American people, don't begrudge people success or

wealth. That's part of the free-market system," the president said. (Or at least "free markets" as interpreted by state capitalist doctrine.)

That turnabout is a revealing snapshot of Smith's maxim in action.

The architects of policy are also at work on a real shift of power: from the global work force to transnational capital.

Economist and China specialist Martin Hart-Landsberg explores the dynamic in a recent Monthly Review article. China has become an assembly plant for a regional production system. Japan, Taiwan and other advanced Asian economies export high-tech parts and components to China, which assembles and exports the finished products.

The Spoils of Power

The growing U.S. trade deficit with China has aroused concern. Less noticed is that the U.S. trade deficit with Japan and the rest of Asia has sharply declined as this new regional production system takes shape. U.S. manufacturers are following the same course, providing parts and components for China to assemble and export, mostly back to the United States. For the financial institutions, retail giants, and the owners and managers of manufacturing industries closely related to this nexus of power, these developments are heaven sent.

And well understood. In 2007, Ralph Gomory, head of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, testified before Congress, **"In this new era of globalization, the interests of companies and countries have diverged. In contrast with the past, what is good for America's global corporations is no longer necessarily good for the American people."**

Consider IBM. According to Business Week, by the end of 2008, more than 70 percent of IBM's work force of 400,000 was abroad. In 2009 IBM reduced its U.S. employment by another 8 percent.

For the work force, the outcome may be "grievous," in accordance with Smith's maxim, but it is fine for the principal architects of policy. Current research indicates that about one-fourth of U.S. jobs will be "offshorable" within two decades, and for those jobs that remain, security and decent pay will decline because of the increased competition from replaced workers.

This pattern follows 30 years of stagnation or decline for the majority as wealth poured into few pockets, leading to what has probably become the greatest inequality between the haves and the have-nots since the end of American slavery.

While China is becoming the world's assembly plant and export platform, Chinese workers are suffering along with the rest of the global work force. This is an unsurprising outcome of a system designed to concentrate wealth and power and to set working people in competition with one another worldwide.

Globally, workers' share in national income has declined in many countries-dramatically so in China, leading to growing unrest in that highly inegalitarian society.

So we have another significant shift in global power: from the general population to the principal architects of the global system, a process aided by the undermining of functioning democracy in the United States and other of the Earth's most powerful states.

The future depends on how much the great majority is willing to endure, and whether that great majority will collectively offer a constructive response to confront the problems at the core of the state capitalist system of domination and control.

If not, the results might be grim, as history more than amply reveals.

Noam Chomsky is Institute Professor (retired) at MIT. He is the author of many books and articles on international affairs and social-political issues, and a long-time participant in activist movements. His most recent books include: [Failed States, What We Say Goes](#)(with David Barsamian), [Hegemony or Survival](#), and the [Essential Chomsky](#).

CommonDreams [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:37 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Monday, March 29, 2010

[Chris Hedges: Is America 'Yearning For Fascism?'](#)

Is America 'Yearning For Fascism?'

by Chris Hedges [article link](#) [article link](#)

Published on Monday, March 29, 2010 by TruthDig.com

The language of violence always presages violence. I watched it in war after war from Latin America to the Balkans. **The impoverishment of a working class and the snuffing out of hope and opportunity always produce angry mobs ready to kill and be killed. A bankrupt, liberal elite, which proves ineffectual against the rich and the criminal, always gets swept aside, in times of economic collapse, before thugs and demagogues emerge to play to the passions of the crowd.** I have seen this drama. I know each act. I know how it ends. I have heard it in other tongues in other lands. I recognize the same stock characters, the buffoons, charlatans and fools, the same confused crowds and the same impotent and despised liberal class that deserves the hatred it engenders.

"We are ruled not by two parties but one party," Cynthia McKinney, who ran for president on the Green Party ticket, told me. "It is the party of money and war. Our country has been hijacked. And we have to take the country away from those who have hijacked it. The only question now is whose revolution gets funded."

The Democrats and their liberal apologists are so oblivious to the profound personal and economic despair sweeping through this country that they think offering unemployed people the right to keep their unemployed children on their nonexistent health care policies is a step forward. They think that passing a jobs bill that will give tax credits to corporations is a rational response to an unemployment rate that is, in real terms, close to 20 percent. They think that making ordinary Americans, one in eight of whom depends on food stamps to eat, fork over trillions in taxpayer dollars to pay for the crimes of Wall Street and war is acceptable. They think that the refusal to save the estimated 2.4 million people who will be forced out of their homes by foreclosure this year is justified by the bloodless language of fiscal austerity. **The message is clear. Laws do not apply to the power elite. Our government does not work. And the longer we stand by and do nothing, the longer we refuse to embrace and recognize the legitimate rage of the working class, the faster we will see our anemic democracy die.**

The unraveling of America mirrors the unraveling of Yugoslavia. The Balkan war was not caused by ancient ethnic hatreds. It was caused by the economic collapse of Yugoslavia. The petty criminals and goons who took power harnessed the anger and despair of the unemployed and the desperate. They singled out convenient scapegoats from ethnic Croats to Muslims to Albanians to Gypsies. They set in motion movements that unleashed a feeding frenzy leading to war and self-immolation. **There is little difference between the ludicrous would-be poet Radovan Karadzic, who was a figure of ridicule in Sarajevo before the war, and the moronic Glenn Beck or Sarah Palin. There is little difference between the [Oath Keepers](#) and the Serbian militias. We can laugh at these people, but they are not the fools. We are.**

The longer we appeal to the Democrats, who are servants of corporate interests, the more stupid and ineffectual we become. Sixty-one percent of Americans believe the country is in decline, according to a recent NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll, and they are right. Only 25 percent of those polled said the government can be trusted to protect the interests

of the American people. If we do not embrace this outrage and distrust as our own it will be expressed through a terrifying right-wing backlash.

"It is time for us to stop talking about right and left," McKinney told me. "The old political paradigm that serves the interests of the people who put us in this predicament will not be the paradigm that gets us out of this. I am a child of the South. Janet Napolitano tells me I need to be afraid of people who are labeled white supremacists but I was raised around white supremacists. I am not afraid of white supremacists. I am concerned about my own government. The Patriot Act did not come from the white supremacists, it came from the White House and Congress. [Citizens United](#) did not come from white supremacists, it came from the Supreme Court. Our problem is a problem of governance. I am willing to reach across traditional barriers that have been skillfully constructed by people who benefit from the way the system is organized."

We are bound to a party that has betrayed every principle we claim to espouse, from universal health care to an end to our permanent war economy, to a demand for quality and affordable public education, to a concern for the jobs of the working class. And the hatred expressed within right-wing movements for the college-educated elite, who created or at least did nothing to halt the financial debacle, is not misplaced. Our educated elite, wallowing in self-righteousness, wasted its time in the boutique activism of political correctness as tens of millions of workers lost their jobs. The shouting of racist and bigoted words at black and gay members of Congress, the spitting on a black member of the House, the tossing of bricks through the windows of legislators' offices, are part of the language of rebellion. **It is as much a revolt against the educated elite as it is against the government. The blame lies with us. We created the monster.**

When someone like Palin posts a map with cross hairs on the districts of Democrats, when she says "Don't Retreat, Instead-RELOAD!" there are desperate people cleaning their weapons who listen. When Christian fascists stand in the pulpits of megachurches and denounce Barack Obama as the Antichrist, there are messianic believers who listen. When a Republican lawmaker shouts "baby killer" at Michigan Democrat Bart Stupak, there are violent extremists who see the mission of saving the unborn as a sacred duty. They have little left to lose. We made sure of that. And the violence they inflict is an expression of the violence they endure.

These movements are not yet full-blown fascist movements. They do not openly call for the extermination of ethnic or religious groups. They do not openly advocate violence. But, as I was told by Fritz Stern, a scholar of fascism who has written about the origins of Nazism, **"In Germany there was a yearning for fascism before fascism was invented."** It is the yearning that we now see, and it is dangerous. **If we do not immediately reincorporate the unemployed and the poor back into the economy, giving them jobs and relief from crippling debt, then the nascent racism and violence that are leaping up around the edges of American society will become a full-blown conflagration.**

Left unchecked, the hatred for radical Islam will transform itself into a hatred for Muslims. The hatred for undocumented workers will become a hatred for Mexicans and Central Americans. The hatred for those not defined by this largely white movement as American patriots will become a hatred for African-Americans. The hatred for liberals will morph into a hatred for all democratic institutions, from universities to government agencies to the press. **Our continued impotence and cowardice, our refusal to articulate this anger and stand up in open defiance to the Democrats and the Republicans, will see us swept aside for an age of terror and blood.**

© 2010 TruthDig.com

Chris Hedges writes a regular column for Truthdig.com. Hedges graduated from Harvard Divinity School and was for nearly two decades a foreign correspondent for The New York Times. He is the author of many books, including: [War Is A Force That Gives Us Meaning](#), [What Every Person Should Know About War](#), and [American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America](#). His most recent book is [Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle](#).

truthdig [home page](#)

CommonDreams [home page](#)

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:10 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

James Howard Kunstler: Our Turn?

Our Turn?

by: James Howard Kunstler [article link](#) [article link](#)

Monday 29 March 2010 | kunstler.com

Nations go crazy. It's terrifying when it happens, especially to a major nation with the ability to project its craziness outward. We look back on the psychotic break of Germany in 1933 and still wonder how the then-best-educated population in Europe could fall under the sway of a sociopathic political program. We behold the carnage and devastation left in the wake of that episode, and decades later you still can do little more than shake your head in bewilderment.

China had a psychotic break in the 1960s in its "cultural revolution," provoked by the mad neo-emperor Mao. He sent cadres of Chinese baby boomer youths rampaging across the land, turned every institution upside down, and let millions starve. Mao's China lacked the ability then to export this mischief, but enough of his own people suffered.

Cambodia was the next humdinger of a national nervous breakdown when the Paris-educated classic marxist Pol Pot decided to make the world's biggest omelette by cracking a million eggs. He took everybody wearing eyeglasses, everybody who appeared to have a thought in his or her head, and sent them out to the bush to be worked to death, or shot in ditches, or disposed of otherwise. The mounds of skulls remain to tell the tale.

Lately we've had the Hutu-Tutsi genocides in Rwanda, the craziness in former Yugoslavia, the cruelty of Darfur, the international suicide-bomber craze (including today's blasts in Moscow). Surely, I've left a few out... but these are minor episodes compared to what be coming next.

Am I the only one who senses it might be America's turn to go nuts? I don't mean a family squabble, like the Boomer-Hippie-Vietnam uproar that was essentially an adolescent rebellion against bad parenting in the national household. **I mean a genuine descent into madness, with the very high probability of persecution, violence, murder, and mayhem -- all more or less sponsored by various authorities and institutions.**

The Republican Party is doing a great job in provoking such a dangerous episode by making consensual governance impossible in a time of awful practical problems and challenges. They're in the process, right now, of transforming themselves from the party of "no" to the party of no decency, no common sense, no ideas, no conception of the public interest, and no respect for the traditions that they pretend to stand for, like due process of law. In the days since the passage of health care reform, they've gone as far as inciting mobs to violence against their fellow congressmen and senators -- bricks thrown through windows, death threats made, coffins placed in the yards of their adversaries. One day soon, somebody with a gun or an explosive device, someone with a very sketchy sense-of-self, and perhaps a recent record of personal failure and humiliation, is going to sacrifice himself to become the Tea Party's first martyr by shooting up a shopping mall in some blue district.

Republican leaders' avidity to ally themselves with the followers of hate-monger entertainers like Glenn Beck, Rush Limbaugh, Ann Coulter and the Fox News gang is only the beginning of the process that will lead to a political convulsion possibly worse than the one that started at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, 1861. If it comes, it will certainly be a far more incoherent conflict. The guerilla forces of the radical right will not know whether they are fighting for WalMart, or the Financial Services arm of General Electric, or against abortions, or for bigger and better freeways, or the rights of thoracic surgeons to drive families into bankruptcy, or against the idea of climate change, or evolution, or Jews-in-the-media, or their neighbors having something they feel envious about....

In the background, of course, is an economy just barely holding together with political baling wire and duct tape. It has very poor prospects for continuing in the way it was designed to run, on cheap oil and revolving debt. The upshot is an economy now destined for permanent contraction, and nobody has a plan for managing that contraction -- which will include awful failures in food production, in disintegrating water systems, electric grids, roadway systems, schools... really anything that requires ongoing public investment. It includes a financial system that cannot come up with capital

deployable for productive purpose, or currencies that can be relied on to hold value, or markets that function without interference.

For its part, the Democratic Party has done a poor job of clearly articulating the realities of these things, and in actions like bailouts they've given the false impression that the nation can somehow engineer a return to the reckless hedonism of the late 20th century. **My guess is that the situation is so desperate now that President Obama and his supporters can't risk telling the truth about the comprehensive contraction we face.**

The health care reform act was a tortured way of dealing with some of this indirectly. It will absolutely lead to a kind of health care "rationing," but rationing is unavoidable in an economy where there is less of everything that people need, and fewer resources to spread around. The difference between the Democrats and the Republicans is that the Republicans would prefer to see the rationing accomplished by money-grubbing health insurance companies denying coverage to policy-holders who get sick, or by the bankrupting of households (i.e. losers who deserve to die anyway), while the Democrats want to at least try to distribute what we can a little more fairly. The larger failure of both factions to emulate better systems running in sister societies like Canada and France is something that history will judge.

I was in favor of the health care reform act for the reason of that basic difference between the Right and the Left. For all its flaws -- and perhaps even the prospect that we are too far gone in national bankruptcy to ever get all its provisions running -- I believe it was necessary for our national morale to pass the bill, to prove that we could do something besides remain stuck in paralysis and bickering indefinitely. And it was necessary to smack down the Party of Cruelty, to inform ourselves that we are not quite ready to go completely crazy.

Whatever his flaws, omissions, and failures, I'm impressed with President Obama's ability to conduct himself like an adult, like a good father, in the face of the most unseemly provocations by his red-faced adversaries John Boehner, Mitch McConnell, Michelle Bachman, Sarah Palin, Jim DeMint, and all the other apoplectic opportunists trying so desperately to turn the United States into a high-definition Jesus tele-theocracy of Perpetual NASCAR. As economic conditions worsen -- I believe they will -- I hope Mr. Obama can discipline these maniacs. I would like to see him start by instructing his attorney general to look into the connection between Republican officials (including staff members) and the threats of violence and murder that were made last week around the country.

James Howard Kunstler is the author of "The Long Emergency," the novel "World Made By Hand," and the sequel, "The Witch of Hebron, coming out in September from The Atlantic Monthly Press.

truthout [home page](#)

James Howard Kunstler [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:54 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[A New And Living Way](#)

MM Book 2 Chapter 10-3

“Faith [G4102 assurance; fidelity; root G3982 persuade; trust; obey; have confidence; believe] *OF* Christ”; Rom 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism [BAPTISED COMMUNITY; A NEW AND LIVING WAY] into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should *walk* [G4043 be occupied; to make one's way; progress; to live; to regulate one's life; to conduct one's self] in newness [G2538 in the new state of life in which the Holy Spirit places us; G2537 a new kind; as respect to "form and substance"] of life [WALK IN *NEWNESS* OF LIFE; MESSIAH]; ** FAITH *OF* = LIVING FAITH ** — many have “faith *in* Christ” [secular-Christian-ity; the COG Inc.] but “faith *of* the world”, the “lie” as [dead] systemic [belief in; conviction of the truth of; trust in MAMMON]; Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed [the works of the devil], that *henceforth* [at this moment, and from now on] WE SHOULD NOT SERVE [G1398 be in bondage; do service; to obey; to yield obedience to; to give one's self up to; G1401 one who gives himself up to another's

will; a servant] SIN – WE ARE TO GIVE OURSELVES TO GOD’S WILL, AS HIS SERVANTS [ministrants], *NOT* SATAN – WE MUST BELIEVE GOD AND TRUST IN HIM, WE MUST LIVE BY FAITH *OF* CHRIST [as "the Anointed"] – WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD BY CHRIST’S DEATH, WE ARE JUSTIFIED [freed; righteousness] BY CHRIST’S FAITH [faith *of*; ** His "being and doing" now ours **], AND WE ARE SAVED BY CHRIST’S LIFE: Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, ** but Christ liveth in me ** [we *are* Christ come in the flesh, His very body]: AND THE LIFE WHICH I *NOW* LIVE IN THE FLESH I LIVE BY THE FAITH *OF* THE SON OF GOD, WHO LOVED ME, AND *GAVE* HIMSELF [as "gift"] FOR ME.

MM Book 2 Chapter 10-4

Our observance of Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread [ULB] signifies this Living Faith [the seven annual Holy Days provide a deep understanding of God and of our place within His Family], Christ in us, in understanding Jesus Christ and our Baptism, the deep meaning and significance, YET WE DENY OUR RESPONSE-ABILITY(-IES) by our chosen “corporate form and its work”; the “lie” [strong delusion] – we acknowledge the Holy Spirit but NOT its working [working the selfsame Spirit], the ministration of its, and our, very gifts – the deep meaning and significance of the “bread” and “wine” includes the fact that we are “CHRIST COME IN THE FLESH”, that we are the very Body of Christ [His flesh and blood] and “washing each other’s feet” includes the fact of preparing and supporting each other’s ministry in deep humility and love !! – 1 Cor 11:27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread [** UNLEAVENED BREAD ** OF SINCERITY AND TRUTH; MANNA; CHRIST, THE BREAD OF LIFE], and drink [this] cup [EXPERIENCE; LIVING WAY (our life = Ministry)] of the Lord, *unworthily*, shall be guilty [G1777 subject to; liable] of the body and blood of the Lord [SUBJECT TO THE "BODY" AND "BLOOD" OF CHRIST] ... 29 For he that eateth and drinketh *unworthily* [G371 in an unworthy manner; G370 unfit for a thing; G514 befitting; congruous; corresponding to a thing; AS BEFITTING CHRIST HIMSELF; AS GOD IS SO ARE WE IN THE WORLD], eateth and drinketh *damnation* (2 Thess 2:10) [G2917 judgment, root G2919] to himself, ** not discerning ** [G1252 make a distinction; to separate] the Lord’s body – WE MUST COME OUT OF EGYPT, THE SINS OF THIS WORLD [physically and spiritually (the COG Inc.); we must withdraw, separate from the pharaoh's, the self-ordained], ** WE MUST MAKE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN MAMMON AND MESSIAH, OR ELSE WE TAKE THE PASSOVER UNWORTHILY; WE MUST DISCERN [to recognize as separate or different; to perceive or recognize the difference] THE BODY OF CHRIST ** - this has been, and is, ** our failure ** as the COG, and our spiritual illness is the result: 1 Cor 11:30 For this cause [not discerning] many are weak and sickly [G732 sick; without strength] among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge [G1252 discern; contend; separate] ourselves, we should not be judged [G2919 condemn (damned)].

MM Book 2 Chapter 10-5

Only God can know God, and it is “God in us”, that enables us to know Him, and to be response-”able” for Christ’s Ministry, NOW also *our* Ministry: the ministration of God’s Spirit, according to His Will and Purpose; the deep spiritual meaning of Passover includes the knowledge and acceptance of Christ ** living His life ** in our flesh [His very flesh now our flesh (unleavened bread); His "life" blood now our blood (cup of wine)] and of *our* Ministry, the very Ministry of Jesus Christ !! – THIS MUST BE OUR CONSCIOUSNESS, *NOT* WHAT IS PREVALENT IN-AND-OF THE WORLD [the hierarchy; COG INC.], STRIVING AGAINST THE SPIRIT AND DENYING GOD, DENYING OURSELVES GOD !! – those claiming the ministry of others, and then the support of those taken from, are of the SYNAGOGUE of SATAN, the ANTI-ANOINTED, and do *NOT* discern the Body of Christ, they believe the LIE [because they received *NOT* the "love" of the truth; GOD = LOVE, THEY RECEIVED NOT GOD !!] — the COG Inc., curricula [church as college; Ministers decreed in dogma by Degree], activities, media programming and religious indoctrination all portray corporatized-hierarchical, Mammonized ideas and institutions, in support of an apocalyptic creed and warning work; ** THIS PORTRAYAL OF GOD IS A BETRAYAL, A LIE **.

MM Book 2 Chapter 10 [web page](#) (widescreen)

MM Book 2 [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [6:38 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Holy Days: Family and Community

The Seven Annual Sabbaths

Our inherent value = love and truth; the communitarian way, the environment instituted in the pages of the OT and exemplified in the NT has a built-in reminder to maintain "the continual", the daily worship (the practise of the way): the annual Holy Days, the festivals; the shared symbolic behavior so important to fellowship and cognition.

The seven annual Sabbaths instituted forever not only the Holy Days [God's Plan of Salvation for humanity] but the way of life within, explicit in the harvest feasts: the communitarian way, the *path* [personal achievement of true humanity] - the first day of the sacred year (the annual beginning); the Passover (the sacrifice, the reconciliation, the acceptance; the SAGE attempt to silence); ULB (the putting away of sin, the commitment); Pentecost (the gift of God; a society of the gift); the fall harvest season, Trumpets, Atonement, FOT, LGD: the return Christ, of His message; the putting away of the adversary (Mammon; the alienated, privileged attitudes); the harvest feast (feast of booths, the millennium, the communal reconstruction); the judgement (the Book of Life opened; all of humanity to share in the way).

The **Passover** observance at even (sunset), in the NT the Last Supper; the wine and unleavened bread taken by the Baptised in acknowledgement of the sacrifice of Christ Jesus for the remission of sins and in rededication as the very flesh and blood of the "body of Christ"; the Night To Be Much Remembered, observed the next sunset, was instituted to remember the Exodus of Israel from Egypt (typifies sin), the **7 Days of Unleavened Bread** [ULB] begin; they picture the removal of sin from our lives; no leavened bread or products of any kind (the puffed-up lives, attitudes); the first and last days are annual Sabbaths; next is **Pentecost**, which pictures God's Gift of the Holy Spirit to the Christian Community, the 3rd annual Sabbath.

The **Feast of Trumpets** pictures the return of Christ; the Second Coming when Christ directly intervenes in world affairs and establishes the government or Kingdom of God over mankind; the beginning of the Millennium; the next event is pictured by the **Day of Atonement**; the binding and separation of Satan, the author of all sin (the transgression of God's Ten Commandments) away from mankind until after the Millennium; next is the **Feast of Tabernacles** [FOT] or Booths, a feast of ingathering, a seven day festival where we leave our homes and gather together if possible; it pictures the Millennium when Jesus Christ is Lord and King over all the earth, when the Holy Spirit is granted to all mankind alive and born during the Millennium and the earth is prepared for the next great event to take place; that event is pictured by the **Last Great Day** [LGD], the resurrection of every man, woman and child who has ever lived/been conceived (including the stillborn and aborted, placed into their parents arms); the dead stand before God; this is the Great White Throne Judgement, not a condemnation to a hell as traditional Christianity believes, but a time when the "Book of Life" is opened to all of humanity and they are given their first opportunity to receive God's instruction, to learn his way of love based on the 10 Commandments and ultimately to be born into the very Family of God.

The spring (3 Sabbaths) and fall Holy Days (4 Sabbaths) picture the plan of redemption for mankind and are explained throughout the Bible; by keeping them as commanded by God every year, the Church (the community) is kept in constant remembrance of God's plan for mankind and man's destiny to be born into the Family of God and ultimately to share in the rule and continuing creation of the universe.

MM Book 2 Chapter 10-17

When we come in contact with, or come up against, "character" that *lacks* God [in others or in ourselves], it is an opportunity to express God: INIQUITY PURGED BY MERCY AND TRUTH [mercy/forgiveness] – all of us have been casualties of the prevailing systemic character, the fear "bullet" [arrow] that is shot deep into us; God will heal the "inflicted wound", and heal us !! — we must pull-back "for" engagement [from the evil; we are in conflict of interest]; WE MUST *OCCUPY* COMMUNITY, WE MUST *PLACE* GOD'S PRESENCE INTO WHEREVER WE ARE [location or situation]; GOD'S CHARACTER AND ABILITIES ARE OURS TO PLACE !! – WE *ARE* GOD FAMILY, WE EMBODY [our being] AND CREATE [our doing] COMMUNITY, THIS *IS* OUR RESPONSE-ABILITY !! — OUR MINISTRY [ministration] IS ** OUR RELATIONSHIP(S) **, OUR COMMUNITY !! – AGAPE LOVE IS THE GIFT, AND THE GIVING !!

“... The three main festivals in the Bible are Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles – in the physical application Passover is the festival of political freedom, Tabernacles of economic freedom, and Pentecost, the central and most important, is a festival of spiritual freedom [see Harris L. Selig, "Links to Eternity", p. 370; Richard C. Nickels, Giving and Sharing, "Pentecost Paper"]:

PASSOVER = POLITICAL FREEDOM – EXODUS (out of bondage), Christ Systemic;
PENTECOST = SPIRITUAL FREEDOM – 10C, Covenant People, Holy Spirit, COG;
TABERNACLES = ECO-NOMIC FREEDOM – Ingathering, Harvest, KINGDOM OF GOD.

MM Book 2 Chapter 10 [web page](#) (widescreen)
MM Book 2 [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [6:19 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Sunday, March 28, 2010

[Passover Letter: Let God's People Go !!](#)

A Passover Letter to the COG "Ministry": LET GOD'S PEOPLE GO !!

Matthew 20:25 But Jesus called them [unto him], and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. 26 But ***it shall not be so among you***: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister [G1249 diakonos; attendant]; 27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: 28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Mark 10:42 But Jesus called them [to him], and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. 43 But ***so shall it not be among you***: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister [G1249 diakonos; attendant]: 44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

Luke 22:25 And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. 26 But ***ye [shall] not [be] so***: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. 27 For whether [is] greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? [is] not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

Matthew 20:25-28, Mark 10:42-44, and Luke 22:25-27 are clear definitions of, and a clear recognition that, **an imposed systemic is employed within the COG [Church of God], ** in direct violation of Christ's instructions ****. These testimonies clearly show that there is a very serious ***error*** within the COG which has caused and continues to cause extremely grievous repercussions !! **"... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might **destroy** the works of the devil" [1 John 3:8]. This is the purpose, the commission of the Church, to destroy the works of the devil, not to mimic and employ his systemic !!** The nature of the beast is directing the COG, not the nature of God. We must understand that God does NOT desire to exercise lordship over us - it is Satan's desire to exercise dominion over others; God's purpose, desire, is the exact opposite: **** it is to serve His creation ** IN RELATIONSHIP**, and this, our relationship, ***is*** the GOVERNMENT of GOD !!

The COG is not a hierarchy, a one-man rule with a professional ministry, ranking the "gifts of God," nor is it a professional eldership, with many "gifts of the ministry" within the eldership. **The COG is a "ministry of gifts" imparted to all those within whom the Spirit of God resides, a common ministry of the brethren, each with a gift, or gifts that God has given them, freely sharing all that God has freely shared with them [in a reciprocal relationship, with each other and with God], for the edification of the body of Christ, for the work of the ministry, their ministry.** The work of the

ministry [the ministration of gifts] belongs to the entire body of believers, equipped, guided, and encouraged by a mutual sharing of God's gifts, to expound and apply His Word with wisdom and power.

The body of Christ is held together by every part working together. Each Christian has a ministry given to them by God - each has stewardship responsibilities, authority, and full accountability to God. There is no professional ministry, no corporate church [the COG Inc.], no ranking of spiritual gifts, no division into ministry and laity, no copyrighting of God's truth [God owns the copyright; no money, no price]. No man has the right to put his name on any understanding given by God, an understanding to be placed on the common table, in proper humility [with no thought of reward or recognition], for all to eat. We are all brethren, no more, no less !! The COG is not a business, the COG Family is a community !!

The COG community is patterned on local, autonomous, loosely-confederated congregations, with those mature in the spirit [elders] chosen within each, gently leading in servant authority, leading by persuasive example [we love Christ because He first loved us], not bosses over God's church, not imposing, but guiding [as arbiter with Christ] each congregation in their gifted dialogue, their reasoning together, with the spirit of God leading, to an understanding of the truth of God, and abiding in that truth.

Christ's desire is to use the church-community to show the world a wholly new form of authority. But this new form of authority is nullified by the top-down, command-style structure that prevails in the COG today. The Gospel is negated even before it is proclaimed, because we deny its power with the way we conduct our lives and our church business. As a result, God is robbed of His glory and His image is distorted before the watching world. Nothing could be more serious than this !!

The COG must withdraw out of this world's systemic [be ye separate; be not partakers], we must withdraw out of its unholy and unrighteous ways into God's separate and self-sufficient community [Holy and Righteous in *all* our ways; a *living* witness]. How we stand in *relation* to our fellow man and his society as his future judge [1 Cor 6:2, the saints shall judge the world, the angels] is paramount. We cannot partake of another's sin, or be the cause or occasion of the same, or our role as judge is negated !! The COG systemic must be *of God* NOT of man [we are under judgment now]; how can we mete out judgment when we are guilty of complicity in the very sins being judged ?? The COG must be the alternative community, the *full* preaching and witness [our citizenship wholly conformed to the Gospel], the light that the world can see and turn to. **We must not participate in this imposed, evil systemic [the false god of business and its monetary system, its instrumentality of oppression], helping to build holocaust, while at the same time planning our escape.** God's people must strive to be self-sufficient in *all* their ways, ie., negative-interest community currency(-ies) used within the confederated, communitarian community-congregations.

Our withdrawal into God's community is only possible if we truly go to our scattered brethren [in love, in prayer, trusting in God] to resolve any differences [instead of accusing, marking, calling our judgment "tough love"]; we have more in common than in difference [the carnal wall of division and strife is money, position, and personality]. **The COG has a different mind [God's mind], a different attitude [Holy, righteous, spiritual character], and a different purpose in life [to destroy the works of the devil]. The COG walks a different path, guided by God's MAP [mind, attitude, purpose] and spiritual compass [the Holy Spirit showing us the way].** The work of the COG is to believe on Christ [John 6:29], to be committed unto, to be persuaded of, to trust, to follow Christ, in all of His Ways. All things are possible with God !!

The various COG Inc.'s must be disestablished in total. Restitution must be made to *all* brethren [past and present; we must forgive each other]. **God's people must be let go, must be set free by the professional ministry, who are opposing God both in mind and in form.** They too, must take their proper place within God's ministry of gifts. We must all go to God in deep humility, in weeping and mourning, and ask for His forgiveness. We must ask God to lead us into His righteous community, to establish His community filled with agape love and healing !! **We must repair the breach, and restore the paths to *dwell* in. The Ministry of Reconciliation begins within the Church of God.**

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:51 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Jeremy Rifkin: The Age of Empathy

A new generation of scientists, scholars, and social reformers are beginning to challenge dominant narratives of human nature that inform our cultural and political debates. The notion that reason is the apex of human consciousness is giving way to an 'Age of Empathy', writes Jeremy Rifkin.

Stepping Up To The Age of Empathy

by Jeremy Rifkin [article link](#) [article link](#)

2nd March 2010 - Published by The Huffington Post

While our radio talk shows and 24-hour cable TV news programs incessantly play off the political rift between conservative and liberal ideologies, the deeper conflict in America has always been the cultural divide between faith versus reason.

At the dawn of the modern market economy and nation-state era, the philosophers of the Enlightenment challenged the Age of Faith that governed over the feudal economy with the Age of Reason. Theologians and philosophers have continued to battle over faith vs. reason ever since, their debates often spilling over into the cultural and political arenas, with profound consequences for society.

Today, however, at the outset of a global economy and the biosphere era, a new generation of scientists, scholars, and social reformers are beginning to challenge some of the underlying assumptions of both the Age of Faith and the Age of Reason, taking us into the Age of Empathy.

The empathic advocates argue that, for the most part, both earlier narratives about human nature fail to plumb the depths of what makes us human and therefore leave us with cosmologies that are incomplete stories--that is, they fail to touch the deepest realities of existence. That's not to dismiss the critical elements that make the stories of faith and reason so compelling. It's only that something essential is missing--and that something is "**embodied experience**."

Both the Abrahamic faiths--Judaism, Christianity, and Islam--as well as the Eastern religions of Buddhism, Hinduism, and Taoism, either disparage bodily existence or deny its importance. So too does modern science and most of the rational philosophers of the Enlightenment. For the former, especially the Abrahamic faiths, the body is fallen and a source of evil. Its presence is a constant reminder of the depravity and mortality of human nature. For the latter, the body is mere scaffolding to maintain the mind, a necessary inconvenience to provide sensory perception, nutrients, and mobility. It is a machine the mind uses to impress its will on the world. It is even loathed because of its transient nature. The body is a constant reminder of death, and therefore, feared, disparaged and dismissed in the world's great religions and among many of the Enlightenment philosophers.

Most of all, the body is to be mistrusted, especially the emotions that flow from its continuous engagement with and reaction to the outside world. Neither the Bible nor the Enlightenment ruminations make much room for human emotions, except to depreciate them as untrustworthy and an impediment either to obedience to God in the first instance or to the rational will in the second instance.

In the modern era, with its emphasis on rationality, objectivity, detachment, and calculability, human emotions are considered irrational, quixotic, impossible to objectify, not subject to detached evaluation, and difficult to quantify. Even today, it is common lore not to let one's emotions get in the way of sound reasoning and judgment. How many times have we heard someone say or have said to someone else, "Try not to be so emotional . . . try to behave more rationally." The clear message is that emotions are of a lesser ilk than reason. They are too carnal and close to our animal passions to be considered worthy of being taken seriously--and worse still, they pollute the reasoning process.

The Enlightenment philosophers--with a few notable exceptions--eliminated the very mortality of being. To be alive is to be physical, finite, and mortal. It is to be aware of the vulnerability of life and the inevitability of death. Being alive requires a continuous struggle to be and comes with pain, suffering, and anguish as well as moments of joy. How does one celebrate life or mourn the passing of a relative or friend or enter into an intimate relationship with another in a world devoid of feelings and emotions?

New developments in evolutionary biology, cognitive science, and psychology are laying the groundwork for a wholesale reappraisal of human consciousness. The premodern notion that faith and God's grace are the windows to reality and the Enlightenment idea that reason is at the apex of modern consciousness are giving way to a more sophisticated approach to a theory of mind.

Researchers in a diverse range of fields and disciplines are beginning to reprioritize some of the critical features of faith and reason within the context of a broader empathic consciousness. **They argue that all of human activity is embodied experience--that is, participation with the other--and that the ability to read and respond to another person "as if " he or she were oneself is the key to how human beings engage the world, create individual identity, develop language, learn to reason, become social, establish cultural narratives, and define reality and existence.**

If empathic consciousness flows from embodied experience and is a celebration of life--our own and that of other beings--how do we square it with faith and reason, which are disembodied ways of looking at reality and steeped in the fear of death?

When we deconstruct the notion of faith, we find that at the core are three essential pillars: awe, trust, and transcendence. The religious impulse begins with the sense of awe, the feeling of the wonder of existence, both the mystery and majesty. Awe is the deepest celebration of life. We marvel at the overwhelming nature of existence, and sense that by our own aliveness, we somehow fit into the wonder we behold.

Although faith is set in motion by a feeling of awe and requires a belief that one's life has meaning in a larger, universal sense of things, it can be purloined and made into a social construct that exacts obedience, feeds on fear of death, is disembodied in its approach, and establishes rigid boundaries separating the saved from the damned. Many institutionalized religions do just that.

It is awe that inspires all human imagination. Without awe, we would be without wonder and without wonder we would have no way to exercise imagination and would therefore be unable to imagine another's life "as if" it were our own. We know that empathy is impossible without imagination. Imagination, however, is impossible without wonder, and wonder is impossible without awe. **Empathy represents the deepest expression of awe, and understandably is regarded as the most spiritual of human qualities.**

But faith also requires trust--the willingness to surrender ourselves to the mystery of existence at both the cosmic level and at the level of everyday life with our fellow beings. **Trust becomes indispensable to allowing empathy to grow, and empathy, in turn, allows us to plumb the divine presence that exists in all things. Empathy becomes the window to the divine. It is by empathic extension that we transcend ourselves and begin connecting with the mystery of existence.**

In the empathic civilization, spirituality invariably replaces religiosity. Spirituality is a deeply personal journey of discovery in which empathic experience--as a general rule--becomes the guide to making connections, and becomes the means to foster transcendence. The World Values Survey and countless other polls show a generational shift in attitudes toward the divine, with the younger generation in the industrialized nations increasingly turning away from institutionalized religiosity and toward personal spiritual quests that are empathic in nature.

Reason too can be salvaged from its disembodied Enlightenment roots and be recast within an embodied empathic frame. While reason is most often thought of in terms of rationalization, that is, abstracting and classifying phenomena, usually with the help of quantifiable tools of measurement, it is more than that. Reason includes mindfulness, reflection, introspection, contemplation, musing, and pondering, as well as rhetorical and literary ways of thinking. Reason is all of this and more. When we think of reason, we generally think of stepping back from the immediacy of an experience and probing our memories to see if there might be an analogous experience that could help us make the appropriate judgment or decisions about how best to respond.

The critical question is where does reason come from? The Cartesian and Kantian idea that reason exists independently of experience as an a priori phenomenon to be accessed does not conform to the way we reason in the real world. **Reason is a way of organizing experience and relies on many mental tools. The point, however, is that reason is never disembodied from experience but rather a means of understanding and managing it.**

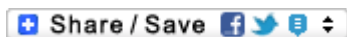
Experience, as we learned earlier, begins with sensations and feelings that flow from engagement with others. While one's sensations and feelings make possible the initial connection with the other, they are quickly filtered by way of past memories and organized by the various powers of reason at our disposal to establish an appropriate emotional, cognitive, and behavioral response. **The entire process is what makes up empathetic consciousness. Empathy is both an affective and cognitive experience.**

If empathy did not exist, we could not understand why we feel the way we do, or conceptualize something called an emotion or think rationally. Many scholars have mistakenly associated empathy with just feelings and emotions. If that were all it was, empathic consciousness would be an impossibility.

Reason, then, is the process by which we order the world of feelings in order to create what psychologists call pro-social behavior and sociologists call social intelligence. Empathy is the substance of the process. Reason becomes increasingly sophisticated as societies become more complex, human differentiation more pronounced, and human exchange more diverse. Greater exposure to others increases the volume of feelings that need to be organized. Reason becomes more adept at abstracting and managing the flood of embodied feelings. That's not to say that reason can't also be used to exploit others, for example, to advance narcissistic ends or create terror among people.

By reimagining faith and reason as intimate aspects of empathic consciousness, we create a new historical synthesis--the Age of Empathy--that incorporates many of the most powerful and compelling features of the Age of Faith and the Age of Reason, while leaving behind the disembodied story lines that shake the celebration out of life.

The Huffington Post [home page](#)
Share The World's Resources [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:37 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Saturday, March 27, 2010

[John Pilger: Have a Nice World War, Folks](#)

Have a Nice World War, Folks

by: John Pilger [article link](#)

Thursday 25 March 2010, t r u t h o u t | Op-Ed

Here is news of the Third World War. The United States has invaded Africa. US troops have entered Somalia, extending their war front from Afghanistan and Pakistan to Yemen and, now, the Horn of Africa. In preparation for an attack on Iran, American missiles have been placed in four Persian Gulf states, and "bunker-buster" bombs are said to be arriving at the US base on the British island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

In Gaza, the sick and abandoned population, mostly children, is being entombed behind underground American-supplied walls in order to reinforce a criminal siege. In Latin America, the Obama administration has secured seven bases in Colombia, from which to wage a war of attrition against the popular democracies in Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay. **Meanwhile, the Secretary of "Defense" Robert Gates complains that "the general [European] public and the political class" are so opposed to war they are an "impediment" to peace.** Remember this is the month of the March hare.

According to an American general, the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan is not so much a real war as a "war of perception." Thus, the recent "liberation of the city of Marja" from the Taliban's "command and control structure" was pure Hollywood. Marja is not a city; there was no Taliban command and control. The heroic liberators killed the usual civilians, poorest of the poor. Otherwise, it was fake. **A war of perception is meant to provide fake news for the folks back home, to make a failed colonial adventure seem worthwhile and patriotic**, as if "The Hurt Locker" were real, and parades of flag-wrapped coffins through the Wiltshire town of Wootton Bassett were not a cynical propaganda exercise.

"War is fun," the helmets in Vietnam used to say with bleakest irony, meaning that if a war is revealed as having no purpose other than to justify voracious power in the cause of lucrative fanaticisms, such as the weapons industry, the danger of truth beckons. This danger can be illustrated by the liberal perception of Tony Blair in 1997 as one "who wants to create a world [where] ideology has surrendered entirely to values" (Hugo Young, the Guardian) compared with today's public reckoning of a liar and war criminal.

Western war states such as the US and Britain are not threatened by the Taliban or any other introverted tribesmen in faraway places, but by the antiwar instincts of their own citizens. Consider the draconian sentences handed down in London to scores of young people who protested Israel's assault on Gaza in January last year. Following demonstrations in which paramilitary police "kettled" (corralled) thousands, first-offenders have received two and a half years in prison for minor offences that would not normally carry custodial sentences. **On both sides of the Atlantic, serious dissent exposing illegal war has become a serious crime.**

Silence in other high places allows this moral travesty. Across the arts, literature, journalism and the law, liberal elites, having hurried away from the debris of Blair and, now, Obama, continue to fudge their indifference to the barbarism and aims of Western state crimes by promoting retrospectively the evils of their convenient demons, like Saddam Hussein. **With Harold Pinter gone, try compiling a list of famous writers, artists and advocates whose principles are not consumed by the "market" or neutered by their celebrity. Who among them have spoken out about the holocaust in Iraq during almost 20 years of lethal blockade and assault?** And all of it has been deliberate. On January 22, 1991, the US defense Intelligence Agency predicted in impressive detail how a blockade would systematically destroy Iraq's clean water system and lead to "increased incidences, if not epidemics of disease." So, the US set about eliminating clean water for the Iraqi population: one of the causes, noted UNICEF, of the deaths of half a million Iraqi infants under the age of five. But this extremism apparently has no name.

Norman Mailer once said he believed the United States, in its endless pursuit of war and domination, had entered a "pre-fascist era." Mailer seemed tentative, as if trying to warn about something even he could not quite define. "Fascism" is not right, for it invokes lazy historical precedents, conjuring yet again the iconography of German and Italian repression. **On the other hand, American authoritarianism, as the cultural critic Henry Giroux pointed out recently, is "more nuance, less theatrical, more cunning, less concerned with repressive modes of control than with manipulative modes of consent."**

This is Americanism, the only predatory ideology to deny that it is an ideology. The rise of tentacular corporations that are dictatorships in their own right and of a military that is now a state with the state, set behind the façade of the best democracy 35,000 Washington lobbyists can buy, and a popular culture programmed to divert and stultify, is without precedent. More nuanced perhaps, but the results are both unambiguous and familiar. Denis Halliday and Hans von Sponeck, the senior United Nations officials in Iraq during the American and British-led blockade, are in no doubt they witnessed genocide. They saw no gas chambers. **Insidious, undeclared, even presented wittily as enlightenment on the march, the Third World War and its genocide proceeded, human being by human being.**

In the coming election campaign in Britain, the candidates will refer to this war only to laud "our boys." **The candidates are almost identical political mummies shrouded in the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes.** As Blair demonstrated a bit too eagerly, the British elite love America because America allows it to barrack and bomb the natives and call itself a "partner." **We should interrupt their fun.**

John Pilger, Australian-born, London-based journalist, film-maker and author. For his foreign and war reporting, ranging from Vietnam and Cambodia to the Middle East, he has twice won Britain's highest award for journalism. For his documentary films, he won a British Academy Award and an American Emmy. In 2009, he was awarded Australia's human rights prize, the Sydney Peace Prize. His latest film is The War on Democracy.

truthout [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:37 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Michael Bane: Introduction - The New Survival Guns

THE NEW SURVIVAL GUNS — An Introduction

posted by Michael Bane [blog link](#)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2010

INTRODUCTION

The More Things Change...

Back in the mid-1970s, not long before then-President Jimmy Carter in his cardigan sweater took to the airwaves to bemoan the new American “malaise,” a banker-turned-writer named Mel Tappan began one of the most successful firearms books ever written with these words:

“Why, in this age of the urban, industrial, interdependent society, would anyone write a book on guns for survival use — or, perhaps more to the point, why would anyone want to read it?”

That book, SURVIVAL GUNS, has remained in print for more than 30 years and, along with the writings of the late Col. Jeff Cooper, was a primary influence on a whole generation of shooters. **Mel Tappan plugged into a nerve that at the time most people had either forgotten or were just beginning to remember, the sense that perhaps the inevitability of greater days ahead for the most powerful nation on earth was not nearly as certain as we’d been led to believe.** We were reeling from the one-two punch of the 1960s, the vestiges of which linger still, and our humiliating withdrawal from Vietnam, culminating in the nationally televised fall of Saigon in 1975. Americans had been pounded in the OPEC-driven gas crisis — for the first time since World War 2 facing long lines and rationing for what was considered a national birthright — suffered our first post-Great Depression stock market crash and were being merciless ground in the nation’s first peacetime inflation, making, as Brad DeLong of the National Bureau of Economic Research noted, “...every business decision a speculation on monetary policy.”

Briefly put, we were afraid in a way that this generation of Americans had never been afraid before, and, worse, we feared on a gut level that we had lost control of the great machine that was the United States.

“Without really being aware of it,” wrote Tappan, “most of us have subcontracted almost all our life support activities to other people, corporations, governmental bodies and machines. Not only does this circumstance contribute to the sense of frustration which is symptomatic of modern man, it is life-threatening should there be an interruption in those vital services. **We need only project ourselves into a natural disaster, a shipwreck or a riot to realize just how dependent we have become on the uninterrupted functioning of the social order merely to stay alive.”**

What followed Tappan’s words was not the much-feared next Great Depression, but a stunning 30-year roller coaster ride through Affluence Land, an unanticipated and unplanned remaking of the world through the technological miracle of lowly silicon, the eighth most common element in the universe. In an interconnected, Internet-driven, YourSpace, FaceBook, Twitter, 24/7 overheated atmosphere, it was easy to forget Tappan’s almost quaint warning... not only had we subcontracted almost all our live support to other people, corporations, governmental bodies and machines, we were now doing so at Internet speeds. Our world became sleek, streamlined and global, without much thought to the implications. For

even the smallest one-person business, supply lines began to stretch across the world... it didn't matter where you worked, the mantra went, because we were all connected in instantaneous communication and the greatest transportation web in the history of mankind.

The mantra was reflected in our largest businesses as well, whether manufacturing or service or intellectual... the world began, to borrow a phrase from economic analysts Thomas Friedman, "flattening out." Businesses moved from the old "inefficient" model of maintaining costly "gotta" inventories — gotta store 'em; gotta count 'em; gotta throw some away when we change the spec — to "just-in-time." Instead of a warehouse full of products, for example, waiting to be restocked on store shelves, the products arrived at the store from suppliers "just-in-time," just hours or even minutes before the shelves ran dry. For American manufacturers, the combination of instant communication, globalization and just-in-time was a godsend, allowing a long chain of supplies from all over the world, usually wherever the supply could be made most cheaply, flowing into factories just in time to be assembled into the newest consumer product.

The American economy prospered at a level that couldn't even be imagined in the era of Jimmy Carter's malaise... what could possibly go wrong?

At the same time, we emerged from the Cold War — our game of brinksmanship with a counterpart superpower, the USSR — to a newer, vaguer and infinitely more dangerous battlefield with an enemy we are still struggling to understand. Until the rise of radical Islam, we understood war as defined by Prussian general Carl Von Clausewitz in the early part of the 19th Century, an extension of diplomacy by other means. "War is not merely a political act, but also a real political instrument, a continuation of political commerce, a carrying out of the same by other means," Clausewitz wrote in *On War*.

Wars sought not to completely overthrow an enemy, but were fought for one of two reasons, to gain specific limited goals — land, resources, sometime populations — or to disarm an enemy and leave him militarily or politically helpless.

While Clausewitz' writings (and those of the other great military strategists) foreshadowed the world-wide conflicts to come, they left us uniquely unprepared for a different nihilistic view of war, a throwback to older, perhaps more darkly violent, times. Radical Islam doesn't seek our lands, our resources or our Western lifestyle, nor does it seek to render us helpless. Rather, by the admissions of its leaders, radical Islam seeks the destruction of Western culture and us along with it. It's a hard concept to get our Western minds around... I'm always reminded of the scene in the alien invasion movie *Independence Day*, where as U.S. President actor Bill Paxton finally is able to ask one of the alien invaders what they wanted us to do. "Die," replied the alien.

The terrorist attacks of 9-11 ultimately redefined Americans view of America, a punctuation mark between our older, safer world and the dangerous, and dangerously unpredictable, landscape of the future. Add to that two long-running wars, multiple contested elections and a viciously poisonous atmosphere in Washington D.C., an endless media drumbeat of overheated disasters from climate change, financial systems teetering on the verge of collapse, exploding stock market bubbles, the "safe nest egg" of real estate collapsing and as perhaps the final nail in America's confidence, the spectacle of New Orleans in the grip of Hurricane Katrina, a major American city descending into anarchy as the whole country followed breathlessly on 24/7 news and Internet feeds. All the governmental "safety nets" supposed in place sagged and eventually ripped apart as people, American citizens, struggled and died in the relentless floodwaters. Local government's response to the spreading disaster was to order all private weapons seized even as murderous gangs ran rampant, and for the first time America was treated to the television spectacle of heavily armored National Guard troops seizing firearms from grandmothers.

The answer to Mel Tappan's original question — "“Why, in this age of the urban, industrial, interdependent society, would anyone write a book on guns for survival use... or, perhaps more to the point, why would anyone want to read it?” — now seems self-evident.

The irony is that we and our society is now so thoroughly interconnected, so thoroughly bound together in a communications / entertainment / information / stuff web that just a few years back would have seemed the exclusive province of science fiction that we no longer understand, or even see, those connections. Our society has become seamless

and we no longer notice the strange noises coming from behind the curtain of the great and powerful Wizard of Oz. One of the my favorite examples of this loss of perspective is an email to a friend of mine, challenging him on his love of hunting. “That is so sick,” the email read. “Why can’t you just get your meat from the grocery store, where it comes from?”

Meat, vegetables, all kinds of food, sanitation, security, information, services of all sorts come from... somewhere else... the grocery store, the supermarket, the internet, the government, the garbage “man,” some entity who sole function is to provide. And while, as adults — well, ostensibly adults — we understand that behind the provider is a long chain of... something, we’re a little vague on what that something is or how it all comes together to deliver a Big Mac, fries and a 24-hour-a-day Twitter feed. To use another analogy, while we are certain the neck bone is connected to the foot bone, we’re not sure whether that connection is bone, rubber bands or magic. Nor do we particularly care.

Which is just spiffy as long as everything works, for lack of better words, to spec. **We live and function in the most complex society in human history, and it works just fine... until it doesn’t.** The problem with complexity is that it is complex — a lot of things have to happen in a very specific sequence, a dance, if you will, for 100 bottles of aspirin to arrive at your local Wal-Mart at the exact moment the last bottle walks out the door in your reuseable, environmentally sound, all-green grocery bag. Multiple that sequence by a thousand, by tens of thousands, by millions of transactions for a modern city to function day-to-day and you start to get a sense of the fragility of modern life.

That fragility only becomes apparent when a link in the chain breaks. It doesn’t actually matter what causes the break — a storm, a plane crashing onto a building, an unpopular court decision, a revolution in a country whose name we’re not sure how to pronounce correctly. When one link of the chain breaks, the entire chain is now at risk... and somewhere at the end of that chain are you and your family.

Which brings us to this book.

It turns out that, yes indeed, we are responsible for our own safety. Despite protestations of the rising Nanny State, the “guarantees” of state, local and federal government, the best efforts of law enforcement officers, nothing much has changed since February 25, 1525 where, in the battle for Pavia in northern Italy a peasant army described as “rabble” and armed with hand-connones slaughtered the French Mounted Horse, the cream of knighthood and the Age of Chivalry. It was the first, but not the last, time the individual firearm became known as the equalizer, the only way for the peasants to throw off the hundreds of years-old shackles of the brutal knights and their invincible armored war “machines,” the great destriers that were, in effect, the medieval equivalent of tanks.

I recently did a guest appearance on a History Channel special titled AFTER ARMAGEDDON. The show addressed the consequences of a pandemic influenza epidemic, focusing on a family in suburban Los Angeles. **One of the questions I was asked in my capacity as an expert in firearms and self-defense was about the “veneer” of civilization. Under the hellish pressure of collapsing resources and rising death tolls, how long would human behavior remain “civilized” by the standards we recognize today?**

My answer was that it took four days for New Orleans to descend into anarchy. “You’d have thought,” I added, “the veneer would be a little thicker.”

When we peak behind the curtain of the great and powerful Wizard of Oz, we don’t like what we see. I believe that if we sit down, take a deep breath and analyze the world we live in, if we are honest with ourselves we must take steps to protect both ourselves and those under our care.

This book is not a comprehensive guide to preparedness, if there is any such thing. When we produced THE BEST DEFENSE/SURVIVAL, the first television series to ever address these concerns, we were initially overwhelmed with the sheer amount of information. At the end of this book, there’s a reading list that’ll help you get started.

This book is about the primary tool for self-defense, the firearm, and what you need to know to make intelligent decisions about guns, training, self-defense and personal responsibility. Parts of this book will be controversial, and I can guarantee you there will be parts you don’t agree with.

If it makes you think, it has accomplished the job I set out to do.

Mel Tappan [wikipedia](#)

Mel Tappan was a survival consultant, freelance writer, lecturer, and survival editor of Soldier of Fortune magazine. His interest in firearms began at the age of 6 when he received his first .22 rifle. From that time, he was an avid shooter, student of weaponry, and outdoorsman. He was devoted to evaluating firearms, outdoor and survival equipment, storable foods, and communications devices in order to provide assistance, by means of his writings and public lectures, to people who see the value of self-sufficient living and long-term survival planning. [Paladin Press]

Tappan On Survival

by Mel Tappan, with a foreword by Bruce Clayton

One of the greatest books ever written on practical survival is back in print for the next generation of self-reliant citizens! Mel Tappan was the godfather of the modern preparedness movement, and this classic collection of his writings is an indispensable resource for information on how to develop a survival mind-set, identify the best survival locations, store food, maintain communications, select firearms and much more. A new foreword by Bruce Clayton, himself an important figure in the preparedness movement after the publication of his book Life After Doomsday in 1980, describes the unique appeal of Tappan's writings and personality, puts Tappan's role in the survivalist movement in historical perspective and explains why his work is still highly relevant today. [Paladin Press]

Survival Guns

by Mel Tappan

When he wrote Survival Guns in 1979, Mel Tappan demonstrated that having the right weapons for securing food and providing personal defense is the key to sustaining life on an independent basis, whether or not a catastrophe occurs. This is even more true today.

Survival Guns became the standard in its own time and went through several printings. When it finally went out of print, it graduated from a classic to a sought-after collector's item, because the principles and advice in this well-reasoned volume are sound and perennially valuable. Some new guns and some new calibers have become available since this book was first published, but its principles, advice, and value remain unchanged. Having more choices only increases the value of advice on how to choose what is best for you.

As used copies of this book became harder and harder to find, Paladin received numerous requests to bring Tappan's classic back into print. We are pleased to make the most well-known survival firearms book ever published available once more to a new generation of concerned citizens facing the same threats Tappan chronicled during his lifetime. Survival Guns remains the definitive book for anyone interested in the practical use of firearms and related weapons for defense, food gathering, and predator and pest control under conditions of long-term, self-sufficient living. [Paladin Press]

Paladin Press [books link](#)

Mel Tappan Survival Guns [amazon link](#)

Mel Tappan Survival Guns [barnes&noble link](#)

Mel Tappan On Survival [amazon link](#)

Mel Tappan On Survival [barnes&noble link](#)

The Michael Bane Blog [blog home](#)

GunsAmerica Magazine and Discussion Forum

The State of the Gun Blogosphere

by Steve PW Johnson [blog link](#) incl. Gun Blog Directory

March 25, 2010

GunsAmerica [home page](#)

The Firearm Blog [blog home](#)

Friday, March 26, 2010

[Gregory Elich review: God & His Demons](#)

God & His Demons: Taking on the Religious Right

Review of Michael Parenti's book

by Gregory Elich [article link](#)

March 26, 2010 Global Research

Michael Parenti has written a compelling work, whose themes are so relevant for our time: **the essentiality of rational thought, the struggle to maintain a secular and tolerant society, and the abuse of religion for reactionary political and obscurant objectives**. As Parenti points out, "That 'old-time religion' is still very much with us and having a considerable impact on U.S. political life." And that impact has only grown in recent years.

Parenti launches his account with that bedrock of old-time religion, the Bible, examining it for what moral lessons it has to impart. Assessing the Bible in the light of literal interpretation as advocated by fundamentalist Christians, rather than inspiration Parenti finds a deeply troubling narrative. There have been many excellent analyses of the absurdities and twisted morality of the Old Testament, but this is among the best. Parenti's romp through the Old Testament is highly entertaining, sharply observed, and simultaneously hilarious and disturbing (in that so many point to it as a source of moral authority). Parenti writes:

"The god of the Holy Bible - so much adored in the United States and elsewhere - is ferociously vindictive, neurotically jealous, intolerant, vainglorious, punitive, wrathful, sexist, racist, xenophobic, homophobic, sadistic and homicidal. As they say, it's all in the Bible. **Beware of those who act in the name of such a god.** Were we to encounter these vicious traits in an ordinary man, we would judge him to be in need of lifelong incarceration at a maximum-security facility. At the very least, we would not prattle on about how he works his wonders in mysterious ways."

Unlike some detractors of the Old Testament, Parenti does not give the New Testament a free ride, holding it up to the same standard of rational analysis he gave to the older section of the Bible. Parenti finds that the "biblical Jesus qualifies quite well as founder and forerunner of an intolerant Christianity."

Parenti is devastating in his critique of the efficacy of prayer and the incongruous nature of religious belief in divine intervention, which he notes is partly based on selective perception: "When over 22,000 people were killed in a 7.6-magnitude earthquake in Pakistan in 2005, one survivor, convinced that his god had saved him - and taking no notice of the thousands who had perished - shouted 'Allah is great'. In 2003, when a U.S. space shuttle blew up in midair killing seven astronauts, thousands of pieces of wreckage rained down on East Texas. Fortunately, no one on the ground was hurt. Many believers praised their god for watching over them. One marquee in Hemphill, Texas read: 'Thank you God. You protected us all here on the ground. You are amazing.' Not a word was proffered regarding God's less than amazing performance in regard to the astronauts." As Parenti observes, "when people survive a danger, they proclaim that their prayers have been answered." But when people perish, no one is quoted as saying their prayers went unanswered, "and no news story is inclined to voice a lament about the futility of prayer."

Indeed, Parenti points out, some of the faithful regard death and destruction as direct retribution, such as Christian evangelist Jerry Falwell's statement that the 9-11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon were divine punishment upon America for harboring "the pagans and the abortionists and the feminists and the gays and lesbians." Then there was Republican congressman Richard Baker's equally insensitive and deranged comment after Hurricane Katrina: "We finally cleaned up public housing in New Orleans. We couldn't do it, but God did."

One of the strengths of [God and His Demons](#) is its refusal to back away from exposing the underside of those widely-admired mainstream icons of modern religion: **Mother Teresa**, Pope John Paul II, and Tibetan Buddhism. Mother Teresa's "clinics and hospitals" were in actuality hospices, where medical care was lacking. One young doctor was appalled at the conditions and reported that many of the dying were suffering from hunger and malnutrition rather than fatal diseases, and could be saved with an improved diet and vitamin supplements. "But he could not persuade Teresa, who showed no interest in medicine or in treating patients with vitamins." Expensive medical equipment donated to Mother Teresa "was left to rust, completely unused."

Meanwhile, Mother Teresa jetted around the globe, "to wage campaigns against divorce, abortion, and birth control." In Egypt, "she urged housewives to 'have lots and lots of children' - at a time when the Egyptian government was trying to promote family planning to counter the nation's population explosion." Mother Teresa's opposition to contraception was unwavering. "Her concern for the unborn child," observes Parenti, "was matched only by an indifference toward the living child. What social conditions caused hundreds of thousands of children to die of malnutrition and disease in Asia and elsewhere was a question that failed to win her attention."

Fast-tracked on the path to sainthood by Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa was beatified in 2003. She was only one among many of the frauds launched upon that path by John Paul. Similarly beatified was Msgr. José María Escrivá de Balaguer, supporter of Franco's fascist government and founder of the right-wing Opus Dei. The self-promoting Padre Pio was another, and Parenti delightfully exposes Pio's outlandish claims about himself, leaving one to wonder how anyone could have taken the man seriously, let alone canonized him. Then there was Cardinal Aloysius Stepinac, that fervent supporter of the Hitler-era fascist puppet government in Croatia, with its extermination of hundreds of thousands of Serbs, Jews and Roma.

But it is for his political role that **Pope John Paul II** is most revered. As Parenti points out, "John Paul, that most political of all popes, remained up to his ears in counter-revolutionary politics in Latin America and elsewhere." Noted for his close collaboration with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, "the pontiff directed no critical attacks against right-wing dictatorships, which he valued as bulwarks against communist revolution." Through the Vatican's secretary of state, he intervened on behalf of Augusto Pinochet, the former fascist leader of Chile, who was then under arrest in Spain for his crimes. And it was John Paul who did the most to undermine the spirit of Vatican II, replacing it with what one church historian has described as "a law-and-order, fear-driven, clerically controlled Church."

Most in need of myth-busting has been the widespread illusion about **Tibetan Buddhism**, with its reputed beneficence. This section alone is worth the price of the book, so revealing is it. "Religions have an age-long relationship not only with violence but also with economic exploitation. Indeed, it is often the economic exploitation that necessitates the violence." The Tibetan theocracy was no different, even up through the time of rule by the Dalai Lama, when "most of the arable land was still organized into manorial estates worked by serfs and owned by monasteries and secular landlords. Just how harsh life could be for a Tibetan serf is described in moving and eye-opening detail by Parenti. Change for Tibetans since 1959 has been substantial, and Parenti provides a balanced narrative of developments, with an honest portrayal of what has been positive and what has not. Certainly, the worst excesses of religious oppression have been expunged.

In a chapter entitled, **Cashing in on Heaven**, Parenti focuses on the self-enrichment by many religious leaders at the expense of their followers. **The extent of sheer greed is astonishing. Often the message today in fundamentalist churches is that of what is termed prosperity gospel, promising "material affluence."** Such a retrograde ideal has predictable results. "Prosperity televangelists like W.V. Grant and Robert Tilton collected tens of millions of dollars from poor, sick, and desperate viewers, while claiming to be supporting orphanages that did not exist. Meanwhile, both live in utter opulence. Tilton does not directly trust in God for financial miracles, preferring to get his money the old-fashioned way - from other people." **By no means are these isolated examples, and the emotional extortion of money from the gullible for personal enrichment has, if anything, been the hallmark of fundamentalist Christian leaders.**

Similarly abusive have been a great many of the **cult leaders and gurus**, a subject that has not always received the attention it has deserved. **"Pretending to an inner quietude and profound modesty, many are endowed with raging egos and immersed in nasty rivalries that are played out with a vehemence redolent of less spiritually advanced individuals."** While leaders live a lavish lifestyle, in many cases adherents are compelled to live in poverty as they work

long hours for the cult with little or no pay. In these "totalistic, self-enriching, guru-worshipping cults," the "master is elevated, the followers are infantilized and diminished." The outright child abuse that occurs in many of these cults and churches is one of the more disturbing sections of the book.

Too often today, religion is placed at the service of reactionary political goals. "Backed by moneyed interests, the right-wing Christianist media propagate free-market corporatism, militarism, and super-patriotism." And their influence is powerful. "It is no accident that we hear almost nothing about the religious Left and so much about the religious Right. Progressive dissidents usually are denied access to mass media audiences. As with politics, so with religion: there is no free market of ideas, no level playing field. Conservative organizations possess a vast constellation of publications, television and radio networks, and satellite and cable channels that gather millions of listeners and viewers." But "the secular corporate-owned media also show a striking favoritism toward the religious Right. On the major television networks, cable news channels, and PBS, conservative religious leaders have been quoted, mentioned, or interviewed almost 400 percent more often than progressive ones, and over 250 percent more often in major newspapers." Those statistics are taken from a 2007 report, and my initial reaction was surprise that these percentages were not higher. Surely in the last three years, the gap has only grown more skewed.

The all-too-frequent abuse of position by religious leaders for **sexual predation** makes for one of the book's more harrowing chapters. "How the religionists and their political counterparts wish to lead their private lives is their business, as long as they bring no harm to others," writes Parenti. "What is at issue here is the moral chasm between what is preached and what is practiced. Also at issue is their homophobia and - in the case of pedophiles and rapists - their criminal venality and the damage they inflict upon the innocent." Parenti recounts the record of hypocrisy and harm with compassion for the victims and outrage over injustice.

Fundamentalist Christian leaders make no secret of their desire to transform the American political system into a theocracy. Already, alarming inroads have been made, as outlined by Parenti with so many examples as to alert one to the dangers ahead. One wishes this information could be presented to as wide an audience as possible. These people mean business. "In the mind of theocrats, 'religious freedom' means the right to roll back secular culture and impose a monochromatic belief system upon everyone. Right-wing fundamentalist leader Randall Terry told an audience of the like-minded faithful: 'I want you to just let a wave of intolerance wash over you... Our goal is a Christian nation... We are called by God to conquer this country. We don't want equal time. We don't want pluralism'." The goal, Parenti writes, "is to take over the U.S. government and replace civil law with biblical law."

Islam, too, has its fundamentalists. "Today's Islamist reactionaries, however, bear a closer resemblance to today's Christian reactionaries in their intolerance toward secularism and their conviction that both heaven and earth are their exclusive province. But unlike the Christianists who await their return to state power, the Islamists can already boast of existing bona fide theocracies such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, Afghanistan (under the Taliban), and Kuwait." And in a number of other countries Islamists are such a strong force that they manage to impose Sharia law. Theirs is an appalling record, as demonstrated by the examples mentioned in this book.

Parenti does see some glimmers of hope, with the continued adherence to the ideal of a secular and tolerant society by a meaningful portion of the American public. Our aim, Parenti concludes, should be to "roll back the theocratic aggrandizement while strengthening our right to entertain our beliefs and disbeliefs openly and with impunity. **Only secular strength and organized democratic activism on our part will counter the sectarian intolerance and state-assisted tyranny of reactionary theocrats.**

God and His Demons is exceptionally well-written book, infused with the author's characteristic style, wit, no-nonsense analysis and deeply-felt humanism. This ranks among the author's most important works, deserving of the highest praise.

Visit Michael Parenti at: <http://www.michaelparenti.org/>

Gregory Elich is on the Board of Directors of the Jasenovac Research Institute and on the Advisory Board of the Korea Truth Commission. He is the author of the book [Strange Liberators: Militarism, Mayhem, and the Pursuit of Profit](#).

Gregory Elich is a frequent contributor to Global Research.
Global Research [Articles](#) by Gregory Elich
Global Research [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:34 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Glen Ford: Obama Inside Man

Black America and “progressives” lurched into self-imposed irrelevancy at precisely the time that finance capital was swallowing the American state whole. Barack Obama is the Great Facilitator of Wall Street's desperate effort to loot itself out of oblivion. Disaster is certain if we remain without a movement that confronts both the banksters and Obama.

Obama: Inside Man for the Greatest Heist in History

by BAR executive editor Glen Ford [artilce link](#)
03/24/2010

Glen Ford delivered the following remarks to a panel discussion of the Left Forum, at Pace University, New York City, on March 20. The discussion was titled, “Race and Recession: Will a Rising Tide Lift All Boats?”

“What we have witnessed since the Fall of 2008, is the swallowing whole of the American state, by finance capital.”

The old, rich man’s slogan, “A rising tide lifts all boats” – that Obama now claims as his own – has been discredited from any number of angles. I’d like to add another layer of contempt.

The phrase takes for granted, as a truism, that you can count on the economic tides rolling in, and then rolling out again, like the ocean. The phrase takes for granted that this system, with its ups and downs, is as permanent as the tides. The implication is that we are simply in a deep downturn in the economy – a cyclical situation – that will inevitably, at some point, lead to an upturn, like the tide coming back in. So, when one says that “A rising tide lifts all boats,” in addition to promising the poor that something better will be coming to them with the next upturn in the cycle, you are also expressing confidence that this capitalist system is eternal – as permanent as the push and pull of the tides.

When Barack Obama first said that a rising tide lifts all boats, his administration was only 100 days old. It had only been a little over half a year since the Great Crash of 2008. But there was Obama, saying essentially that nothing too much out of the ordinary had happened, after all. Yes, the tide was out, but it would be back in again, as always, to lift all boats. And, in the meantime, don’t rock the boat with questions about Black unemployment and other such nuisances and irritants. Just wait for the tide.

“We are at a benchmark in history, a Crack in Time.”

But, of course, we are not experiencing some cyclical phenomenon. We are at a benchmark in history, a Crack in Time.

What we have witnessed since the Fall of 2008, is the swallowing whole of the American state, by finance capital, by Wall Street – a process presided over by Barack Obama. In the annals of history, it is the devouring of the American State, by Wall Street, following the Crash of 2008, that will mark this era – NOT the election of the first Black president, which will be seen as of relatively secondary importance when humanity takes the Long Look Back.

The times we are now living through will be remembered as the period when finance capital definitively captured and totally subordinated the American state, so that it could be systematically looted. By the end of July, 2009, the U.S. government and the Federal Reserve had made available to Wall Street \$23.7 trillion, according to the Inspector General of the TARP program. That figure approaches the value of two years of the total economic output of the United States, whose gross domestic product is about \$14.2 trillion.

When the U.S. government makes available to Wall Street \$23.7 trillion, it has essentially transferred the full faith and credit of the American State to the financial sector. That is the swallowing of the American state. The public treasure that actually went to Wall Street is credibly put at \$14 trillion, which is approximately one year's worth of the total economic output of the nation. **And virtually all of this happened on Barack Obama's Watch. His executive branch and the Federal Reserve are the agents of this world-shaking event – this Crack in Time.**

“The Obama regime has essentially transferred the full faith and credit of the American State to the financial sector.”

It is in this context that we must examine Obama's statement that “A rising tide lifts all boats.” In effect, he is saying that a rising tide – a tsunami of tens of trillions of dollars of public money for the banks and the speculators – will eventually Lift All Boats.

It is also only in this context that we can understand why he has bet his political fortunes on a health care scheme whose main effect will be to transfer another trillion or so public dollars over the next ten years to private insurance corporations – who are an integral element of the Wall Street Casino. The Casino virtually owns the state and is looting it, with the Obama administration as the facilitator.

Wall Street is looting the country, because that is the only way it can survive. It's not just about greed.

We now live under the absolute rule of finance capital, a class that produces nothing. Yet they must somehow create ever increasing rates of profit.

In their mad search for profits, they began laying bets and making deals that were many times larger than the economy of the entire Planet Earth, beginning in the Nineties.

The banksters created a kind of Monopoly Money of their own, called derivatives, that nobody could own or understand but themselves.

By the summer before the Crash of 2008, these derivatives were valued at at least six hundred trillion dollars, and possibly 1000 trillion dollars. The economy of the whole world is only about \$50 trillion.

When Wall Street's house of derivative cards collapsed, the entire world economy – the real economy of work and goods and services that the world depends on – went into a spiral. And in Black America, our little boats went straight to the bottom.

“They began laying bets and making deals that were many times larger than the economy of the entire Planet Earth.”

Who came to the banksters' rescue? Obama and the Democrats, even more loyally the Republicans. **Obama gave them the full faith and credit of the United States, and \$14 trillion in real money to patch things up.**

And what have they done with it? The value of derivatives is now back up to \$600 trillion, again, because they must pump their profits up again, and to do so they must use phony money, and loot the real economy of real money through the mechanisms of the state. If they don't continue to do that, they will die – as they should have in October of 2008. But if we allow them to continue, then the real economy will die – and us with it.

It's them or us – and Obama works for them.

So, what do we do about it? More specifically, what do Black people do about it, in our shaky little boat?

Our mis-leadership class cannot even begin to answer that question, because all rational roads of resistance lead to confrontation with Obama – and this is something the Black mis-leadership class cannot and will not contemplate.

And Obama knows they won't. **The key to Wall Street's triumph in the face of a disaster of its own making, is that the first Black president has neutralized the key progressive constituency in the United States – Black America.** If WE do not confront his corporatist policies – we, who have been most gravely damaged by his friends on Wall Street – then there can be no effective resistance.

But Obama is confident that we will go down without a fight. That's why he so arrogantly dismisses even the most politely phrased questions, like, "What about Black unemployment, Mr. President?" with Rich Man's flatulence: "A rising tide lifts all boats." He talks to us like Reagan, and we accept it like he's a "brother" who has our interests at heart.

His friends on Wall Street committed mass, deliberate destruction of Black society, yet Obama demands that we shut our mouths about race.

"The first Black president has neutralized the key progressive constituency in the United States – Black America."

But Obama goes further. On the one hand, he refuses to acknowledge the racist elephant defecating in the middle of the living room. Through the other side of his mouth, he sets up a racial straw man.

Obama has, from the very start of his national campaign, packaged himself as an aggressively race-neutral politician – the Black man who will not tolerate any assertion that racism is endemic to life in the United States.

It's bad enough that he rules out remedies for the particular problems that plague Black America. But Obama twists the knife even deeper, charging that every Black complaint is a demand for unwarranted, unnecessary and damn-near un-American special treatment.

This can only be for white consumption, since "mainstream" Black leadership has never made any demands on Obama, whatsoever. This past election was the first since I have been politically conscious that organized Black America has made not even the mildest of demands on a Democratic presidential candidate. In the past election, Black leadership advocated nothing, except that Black folks turn out for Obama.

Even the old standby Black demand for a "Marshall Plan for the Cities" was not heard for the first time in two generations. Black mis-leadership was determined that not a mumbling word be spoken that might embarrass or stress the "Black" candidate. That passivity continued deep into Obama's presidency.

But that didn't prevent Obama from setting up the straw man of "race politics" – so that he could knock the straw man down, as he did at his first opportunity. When a BET reporter had the temerity to ask about Black unemployment, Obama used the occasion to talk about tides lifting boats.

"Obama set up the straw man of "race politics" – so that he could knock the straw man down."

The Congressional Black Caucus, after suffering defeat after defeat at the hands of this administration, finally staged a symbolic boycott of a vote on finance sector regulation, late last year. It was clearly symbolic, since the ten Caucus members knew the bill was going to pass in committee without their votes.

The Caucus later held a press conference, where some members admitted they had collectively “ignored” the interests of their own constituents in deference to the Obama administration. But most of the press conference was taken up with denials that the Caucus was asking for race-specific legislation.

What they were doing, was responding to Obama’s straw man tactic. The fact is, no one has ever seriously proposed jobs or housing or other such legislation specifically targeted to Black people. All of this energy was expended to disavow a Black congressional behavior that never was.

And the Black Caucus still has not asked for a “Marshall Plan for the Cities.”

So, here we are, living through a Crack in Time, when finance capital has swallowed the American state whole, and is looting the real economy in order to keep itself afloat, and Black “leadership” can do nothing but defend itself against charges that it pays too much attention to race.

The historical moment passes, because we have no movement.

Everyone here at the Left Forum agrees that what is desperately needed is a vigorous, grass roots movement. But such a movement can only be worthy of the name, if it directly confronts Obama, who is the front man for Wall Street.

BAR executive editor Glen Ford can be contacted at Glen.Ford@BlackAgendaReport.com [1].

Black Agenda Report [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:55 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Hans Ulrich Obrist: Conversation Raoul Vaneigem

"We are moving toward the end of the exploitation of nature, of work, of trade, of predation, of separation from the self, of sacrifice, of guilt, of the forsaking of happiness, of the fetishizing of money, of power, of hierarchy, of contempt for and fear of women, of the misleading of children, of intellectual dominion, of military and police despotism, of religions, of ideologies, of repression and the deadly resolutions of psychic tensions," claims Raoul Vaneigem in Hans Ulrich Obrist's conversation with the Belgian writer, philosopher, and former member of the Situationist International. Vaneigem reminds us of a moment when (or a place where) it seemed as if we brushed up against the future we wanted, or at least the conditions for imagining ideal scenarios for living.

Hans Ulrich Obrist

In Conversation with Raoul Vaneigem

e-flux journal issue #6: [article link](#)

EXCAVATING THE FUTURE

May 2009

Hans Ulrich Obrist: I just visited Edouard Glissant and Patrick Chamoiseau, who have written an appeal to Barack Obama. What would your appeal and/or advice be to Obama?

Raoul Vaneigem: **I refuse to cultivate any relationship whatsoever with people of power.** I agree with the Zapatistas from Chiapas who want nothing to do with either the state or its masters, the multinational mafias. **I call for civil disobedience so that local communities can form, coordinate, and begin self-producing natural power, a more natural form of farming, and public services that are finally liberated from the scams of government by the Left or the Right.** On the other hand, I welcome the appeal by Chamoiseau, Glissant, and their friends for the creation of an existence in which the poetry of a life rediscovered will put an end to the deadly stranglehold of the commodity.

HUO: Could we talk about your beginnings? How did your participation in situationism begin, and what was your fundamental contribution? At the outset of your relationship with the SI, there was the figure of Henri Lefebvre. What did he mean to you at the time? Why did you decide to send him poetic essays?

RV: I would first like to clarify that situationism is an ideology that the situationists were unanimous in rejecting. **The term “situationist” was ever only a token of identification.** Its particularity kept us from being mistaken for the throngs of ideologues. I have nothing in common with the spectacular recuperation of a project that, in my case, has remained revolutionary throughout. My participation in a group that has now disappeared was an important moment in my personal evolution, an evolution I have personally pressed on with in the spirit of the situationist project at its most revolutionary. **My own radicality absolves me from any label.** I grew up in an environment in which our fighting spirit was fueled by working class consciousness and a rather festive conception of existence. I found Lefebvre’s Critique of Everyday Life captivating. When La Somme et le reste [The Sum and the Remainder] was published, I sent him an essay of sorts on “poetry and revolution” that was an attempt to unify radical concepts, Lettrist language, music, and film imagery by crediting them all with the common virtue of making the people’s blood boil. Lefebvre kindly responded by putting me in touch with Guy Debord who immediately invited me to Paris. The two of us had very different temperaments, but **we would agree over a period of nearly ten years on the need to bring consumer society to an end and to found a new society on the principle of self-management, where life supersedes survival and the existential angst that it generates.**

HUO: Which situationist projects remain unrealized?

RV: Psychogeography, the construction of situations, the superseding of predatory behavior. The radicality, which, notwithstanding some lapses, never ceased to motivate us, remains a source of inspiration to this day. Its effects are just beginning to manifest themselves in the autonomous groups that are now coming to grips with the collapse of financial capitalism.

HUO: The Situationist International defined the situationist as someone who commits her- or himself to the construction of situations. What were those situations for you, concretely? How would you define the situationist project in 2009?

RV: By its very style of living and thinking, our group was already sketching out a situation, like a beachhead active within enemy territory. **The military metaphor is questionable, but it does convey our will to liberate daily life from the control and stranglehold of an economy based on the profitable exploitation of man.** We formed a “group-at-risk” that was conscious of the hostility of the dominant world, of the need for radical rupture, and of the danger of giving in to the paranoia typical of minds under siege. By showing its limits and its weaknesses, the situationist experience can also be seen as a critical meditation on the new type of society sketched out by the Paris Commune, by the Makhnovist movement and the Republic of Councils wiped out by Lenin and Trotsky, by the libertarian communities in Spain later smashed by the Communist Party. **The situationist project is not about what happens once consumer society is rejected and a genuinely human society has emerged. Rather, it illuminates now how lifestyle can supersede survival, predatory behavior, power, trade and the death-reflex.**

HUO: You and Guy Debord are the main protagonists of the situationist movement. How do you see Debord’s role and your role?

RV: Not as roles. That is precisely what situationism in its most ridiculous version aims at: reducing us to cardboard cut-outs that it can then set up against one another according to the spectacle’s standard operating procedure. **I am simply the spokesman, among others, of a radical consciousness. I just do what I can to see that resistance to market exploitation is transformed into an offensive of life, and that an art of living sweeps away the ruins of oppression.**

HUO: What were your reasons for resigning from the group?

RV: Following the occupation movements of May 1968, we knew that some recuperation was afoot. We were familiar with the mechanisms of alienation that would falsify our ideas and fit them neatly into the cultural puzzle. It became clear to us, during the last conference in Venice, that we had failed to shatter those mechanisms, that in fact they were shattering us

from the inside. The group was crumbling, the Venice conference was demonstrating its increasing uselessness, and the only answers put forward were commensurate with the self-parody we had fallen into. Dissension intensified to the point of paranoid denunciation: of betrayals of radicality, of breaches of revolutionary spirit, of dereliction of conscience. Those times of catharsis and anathema are now long past, and it might be useful to examine how it is that we sowed the seeds of failure for which the group ended up paying such a heavy price. The shipwreck, however, did not indiscriminately sweep away to the shores of oblivion all of us who participated in the adventure. The group vanished in such a way as to allow the individuals to either consolidate their radicality, disown it, or lapse into the imposture of radicalism. I have attempted to analyze our experimental adventure in *Entre le deuil du monde et la joie de vivre* [Between Mourning the World and Exuberant Life].

HUO: You have written a lot on life, not survival. What is the difference?

RV: **Survival is budgeted life. The system of exploitation of nature and man, starting in the Middle Neolithic with intensive farming, caused an involution in which creativity—a quality specific to humans—was supplanted by work, by the production of a covetous power. Creative life, as had begun to unfold during the Paleolithic, declined and gave way to a brutish struggle for subsistence. From then on, predation, which defines animal behavior, became the generator of all economic mechanisms.**

HUO: Today, more than forty years after May '68, how do you feel life and society have evolved?

RV: **We are witnessing the collapse of financial capitalism.** This was easily predictable. Even among economists, where one finds even more idiots than in the political sphere, a number had been sounding the alarm for a decade or so. **Our situation is paradoxical: never in Europe have the forces of repression been so weakened, yet never have the exploited masses been so passive. Still, insurrectional consciousness always sleeps with one eye open. The arrogance, incompetence, and powerlessness of the governing classes will eventually rouse it from its slumber, as will the progression in hearts and minds of what was most radical about May 1968.**

HUO: Your new book takes us on a trip “between mourning the world and exuberant life.” You revisit May '68. What is left of May '68? Has it all been appropriated?

RV: Even if we are today seeing recycled ideologies and old religious infirmities being patched up in a hurry and tossed out to feed a general despair, which our ruling wheelers and dealers cash in on, they cannot conceal for long the shift in civilization revealed by May 1968. **The break with patriarchal values is final. We are moving toward the end of the exploitation of nature, of work, of trade, of predation, of separation from the self, of sacrifice, of guilt, of the forsaking of happiness, of the fetishizing of money, of power, of hierarchy, of contempt for and fear of women, of the misleading of children, of intellectual dominion, of military and police despotism, of religions, of ideologies, of repression and the deadly resolutions of psychic tensions.** This is not a fact I am describing, but an ongoing process that simply requires from us increased vigilance, awareness, and solidarity with life. **We have to regroup ourselves in order to rebuild—on human foundations—a world that has been ruined by the inhumanity of the cult of the commodity.**

HUO: What do you think of the current moment, in 2009? Jean-Pierre Page has just published *Penser l'après crise* [Thinking the After-Crisis]. For him, everything must be reinvented. He says that a new world is emerging now in which the attempt to establish a US-led globalization has been aborted.

RV: The agrarian economy of the Ancien Régime was a fossilized form that was shattered by the emerging free-trade economy, from the 1789 revolution on. **Similarly, the stock-dabbling speculative capitalism whose debacle we now witness is about to give way to a capitalism reenergized by the production of non-polluting natural power, the return to use value, organic farming, a hastily patched-up public sector, and a hypocritical moralization of trade.** The future belongs to **self-managed communities** that produce indispensable goods and services for all (natural power, biodiversity, education, health centers, transport, metal and textile production . . .). The idea is to produce for us, for our own use—that is to say, no longer in order to sell them—goods that we are currently forced to buy at market prices even though they were conceived and manufactured by workers. **It is time to break with the laws of a political racketeering that is designing, together with its own bankruptcy, that of our existence.**

HUO: Is this a war of a new kind, as Page claims? An economic Third World War?

RV: **We are at war, yes, but this is not an economic war. It is a world war against the economy.** Against the economy that for thousands of years has been based on the exploitation of nature and man. And against a patched-up capitalism that will try to save its skin by investing in natural power and making us pay the high price for that which—once the new means of production are created—will be free as the wind, the sun, and the energy of plants and soil. **If we do not exit economic reality and create a human reality in its place, we will once again allow market barbarism to live on.**

HUO: In his book *Making Globalization Work*, Joseph Stiglitz argues for a reorganization of globalization along the lines of greater justice, in order to shrink global imbalances. What do you think of globalization? How does one get rid of profit as motive and pursue well-being instead? How does one escape from the growth imperative?

RV: **The moralization of profit is an illusion and a fraud.** There must be a decisive break with an economic system that has consistently spread ruin and destruction while pretending, amidst constant destitution, to deliver a most hypothetical well-being. **Human relations must supersede and cancel out commercial relations. Civil disobedience means disregarding the decisions of a government that embezzles from its citizens to support the embezzlements of financial capitalism.** Why pay taxes to the bankster-state, taxes vainly used to try to plug the sinkhole of corruption, when we could allocate them instead to the self-management of free power networks in every local community? **The direct democracy of self-managed councils has every right to ignore the decrees of corrupt parliamentary democracy. Civil disobedience towards a state that is plundering us is a right. It is up to us to capitalize on this epochal shift to create communities where desire for life overwhelms the tyranny of money and power. We need concern ourselves neither with government debt, which covers up a massive defrauding of the public interest, nor with that contrivance of profit they call “growth.” From now on, the aim of local communities should be to produce for themselves and by themselves all goods of social value, meeting the needs of all—authentic needs, that is, not needs prefabricated by consumerist propaganda.**

HUO: Edouard Glissant distinguishes between globality and globalization. Globalization eradicates differences and homogenizes, while globality is a global dialogue that produces differences. What do you think of his notion of globality?

RV: **For me, it should mean acting locally and globally through a federation of communities in which our pork-barreling, corrupt parliamentary democracy is made obsolete by direct democracy.** Local councils will be set up to take measures in favor of the environment and the daily lives of everyone. The situationists have called this “creating situations that rule out any backtracking.”

HUO: Might the current miscarriages of globalization have the same dangerous effects as the miscarriages of the previous globalization from the ‘30s? You have written that what was already intolerable in ‘68 when the economy was booming is even more intolerable today. Do you think the current economic despair might push the new generations to rebel?

RV: The crisis of the ‘30s was an economic crisis. **What we are facing today is an implosion of the economy as a management system. It is the collapse of market civilization and the emergence of human civilization. The current turmoil signals a deep shift: the reference points of the old patriarchal world are vanishing. Percolating instead, still just barely and confusedly, are the early markers of a lifestyle that is genuinely human, an alliance with nature that puts an end to its exploitation, rape, and plundering. The worst would be the unawareness of life, the absence of sentient intelligence, violence without conscience. Nothing is more profitable to the racketeering mafias than chaos, despair, suicidal rebellion, and the nihilism that is spread by mercenary greed, in which money, even devalued in a panic, remains the only value.**

HUO: In his book *Utopistics*, Immanuel Wallerstein claims that our world system is undergoing a structural crisis. He predicts it will take another twenty to fifty years for a more democratic and egalitarian system to replace it. He believes that the future belongs to “demarketized,” free-of-charge institutions (on the model, say, of public libraries). So we must oppose the marketization of water and air.¹ What is your view?

RV: I do not know how long the current transformation will take (hopefully not too long, as I would like to witness it). But I have no doubt that this new alliance with the forces of life and nature will disseminate equality and freeness. **We must go beyond our natural indignation at profit's appropriation of our water, air, soil, environment, plants, animals. We must establish collectives that are capable of managing natural resources for the benefit of human interests, not market interests.** This process of reappropriation that I foresee has a name: **self-management**, an experience attempted many times in hostile historical contexts. At this point, given the implosion of consumer society, it appears to be the only solution from both an individual and social point of view.

HUO: In your writing you have described the work imperative as an inhuman, almost animal condition. Do you consider market society to be a regression?

RV: As I mentioned above, evolution in the Paleolithic age meant the development of creativity—the distinctive trait of the human species as it breaks free from its original animality. **But during the Neolithic, the osmotic relationship to nature loosened progressively, as intensive agriculture became based on looting and the exploitation of natural resources. It was also then that religion surfaced as an institution, society stratified, the reign of patriarchy began, of contempt for women, and of priests and kings with their stream of wars, destitution, and violence.** Creation gave way to work, life to survival, jouissance to the animal predation that the appropriation economy confiscates, transcends, and spiritualizes. In this sense market civilization is indeed a regression in which technical progress supersedes human progress.

HUO: For you, what is a life in progress?

RV: **Advancing from survival, the struggle for subsistence and predation to a new art of living, by recreating the world for the benefit of all.**

HUO: My interviews often focus on the connections between art and architecture/urbanism, or literature and architecture/urbanism. Could you tell me about the Bureau of Unitary Urbanism?

RV: That was an idea more than a project. It was about the urgency of rebuilding our social fabric, so damaged by the stranglehold of the market. **Such a rebuilding effort goes hand in hand with the rebuilding by individuals of their own daily existence.** That is what psychogeography is really about: a passionate and critical deciphering of what in our environment needs to be destroyed, subjected to détournement, rebuilt.

HUO: In your view there is no such thing as urbanism?

RV: Urbanism is the ideological gridding and control of individuals and society by an economic system that exploits man and Earth and transforms life into a commodity. The danger in the self-built housing movement that is growing today would be to pay more attention to saving money than to the poetry of a new style of life.

HUO: How do you see cities in the year 2009? What kind of unitary urbanism for the third millennium? How do you envision the future of cities? What is your favorite city? You call Oarystis the city of desire. Oarystis takes its inspiration from the world of childhood and femininity. Nothing is static in Oarystis. John Cage once said that, like nature, “one never reaches a point of shapedness or finishedness. The situation is in constant unpredictable change.”² Do you agree with Cage?

RV: I love wandering through Venice and Prague. I appreciate Mantua, Rome, Bologna, Barcelona, and certain districts of Paris. I care less about architecture than about how much human warmth its beauty has been capable of sustaining. Even Brussels, so devastated by real estate developers and disgraceful architects (remember that in the dialect of Brussels, “architect” is an insult), has held on to some wonderful bistros. Strolling from one to the next gives Brussels a charm that urbanism has deprived it of altogether. The Oarystis I describe is not an ideal city or a model space (all models are totalitarian). It is a clumsy and naïve rough draft for an experiment I still hope might one day be undertaken—so I agree with John Cage. This is not a diagram, but an experimental proposition that the creation of an environment is one and the same as the creation by individuals of their own future.

HUO: Is Oarystis based on natural power, like the Metabolist cities? Rem Koolhaas and I are working on a book on the Japanese Metabolists. When I read your wonderful text on Oarystis, I was reminded of that movement from the 1960s, especially the floating cities, Kikutake's water cities. Is Oarystis a Metabolist city?

RV: When Oarystis was published, the architect Philippe Rothier and Diane Hennebert, who ran Brussels' Architecture Museum at the time, rightly criticized me for ignoring the imaginative projects of a new generation of builders. Now that the old world is collapsing, the fusion of free natural power, self-built housing techniques, and the reinvention of sensual form is going to be decisive. **So it is useful to remember that technical inventiveness must stem from the reinvention of individual and collective life. That is to say, what allows for genuine rupture and ecstatic inventiveness is self-management: the management by individuals and councils of their own lives and environment through direct democracy.** Let us entrust the boundless freedoms of the imaginary to childhood and the child within us.

HUO: Several years ago I interviewed Constant on New Babylon. What were your dialogues with Constant and how do you see New Babylon today?

RV: I never met Constant, who if I am not mistaken had been expelled before my own association with the SI. New Babylon's flaw is that it privileges technology over the formation of an individual and collective way of life—the necessary basis of any architectural concept. An architectural project only interests me if it is about the construction of daily life.

HUO: How can the city of the future contribute to biodiversity?

RV: By drawing inspiration from Alphonse Allais, by encouraging the countryside to infiltrate the city. By creating zones of organic farming, gardens, vegetable plots, and farms inside urban space. After all, there are so many bureaucratic and parasitical buildings that can't wait to give way to fertile, pleasant land that is useful to all. Architects and squatters, build us some hanging gardens where we can go for walks, eat, and live!

HUO: Oarystis is in the form of a maze, but it is also influenced by Venice and its public piazzas. Could you tell us about the form of Oarystis?

RV: Our internal space-time is maze-like. In it, each of us is at once Theseus, Ariadne, and Minotaur. Our dérives would gain in awareness, alertness, harmony, and happiness if only external space-time could offer meanders that could conjure up the possible courses of our futures, as an analogy or echo of sorts—one that favors games of life, and prevents their inversion into games of death.

HUO: Will museums be abolished? Could you discuss the amphitheater of memory? A protestation against oblivion?

RV: The museum suffers from being a closed space in which works waste away. Painting, sculpture, music belong to the street, like the façades that contemplate us and come back to life when we greet them. **Like life and love, learning is a continuous flow that enjoys the privilege of irrigating and fertilizing our sentient intelligence. Nothing is more contagious than creation. But the past also carries with it all the dross of our inhumanity. What should we do with it?** A museum of horrors, of the barbarism of the past? I attempted to answer the question of the "duty of memory" in *Ni pardon, ni talion* [**Neither Forgiveness Nor Retribution**]:

Most of the great men we were brought up to worship were nothing more than cynical or sly murderers. History as taught in schools and peddled by an overflowing and hagiographic literature is a model of falsehood; to borrow a fashionable term, it is negationist. It might not deny the reality of gas chambers, it might no longer erect monuments to the glory of Stalin, Mao or Hitler, but it persists in celebrating the brutish conqueror: Alexander, called the Great—whose mentor was Aristotle, it is proudly intoned—Julius Caesar, Genghis Khan, Tamerlane, Napoleon, the throngs of generals, slaughterers of peoples, petty tyrants of the city or the state, torturer-judges, Javerts of every ilk, conniving diplomats, rapists and killers contracted by religions and ideologies; so much high renown carved from baseness, wickedness, and abjection. I am not suggesting we should unpave the avenues of official history and pave the side alleys instead. **We are not in need of a purged history, but of a knowledge that scoops out into broad daylight facts that have been obscured, generation after generation, by the unceasing stratification of prejudice.** I am not calling for a tribunal of the

mind to begin condemning a bunch of undesirables who have been bizarrely put up on pedestals and celebrated in the motley pantheons of official memory. **I just want to see the list of their crimes, the mention of their victims, the recollection of those who confronted them added to the inventory of their unsavory eulogies.** I am not suggesting that the name of Francisco Ferrer wipe out that of his murderer, Alfonso XIII, but that at the very least everything be known of both. How dare textbooks still cultivate any respect for Bonaparte, responsible for the death of millions, for Louis XIV, slaughterer of peasants and persecutor of Protestants and freethinkers? For Calvin, murderer of Jacques Gruet and Michel Servet and dictator of Geneva, whose citizens, in tribute to Sébastien Castellion, would one day resolve to destroy the emblems and signs of such an unworthy worship? While Spain has now toppled the effigies of Francoism and rescinded the street names imposed by fascism, we somehow tolerate, towering in the sky of Paris, that Sacré-Coeur whose execrable architecture glorifies the crushing of the Commune. In Belgium there are still avenues and monuments honoring King Leopold II, one of the most cynical criminals of the nineteenth century, whose “red rubber” policy—denounced by Mark Twain, by Roger Casement (who paid for this with his life), by Edward Dene Morel, and more recently by Adam Hochschild—has so far bothered nary a conscience. This is not a call to blow up his statues or to chisel away the inscriptions that celebrate him. This is a call to Belgian and Congolese citizens to cleanse and disinfect public places of this stain, the stain of one of the worst sponsors of colonial savagery. Paradoxically, I do tend to believe that forgetting can be productive, when it comes to the perpetrators of inhumanity. A forgetting that does not eradicate remembering, that does not blue-pencil memory, that is not an enforceable judgment, but that proceeds rather from a spontaneous feeling of revulsion, like a last-minute pivot to avoid dog droppings on the sidewalk. **Once they have been exposed for their inhumanity, I wish for the instigators of past brutalities to be buried in the shroud of their wrongs. Let the memory of the crime obliterate the memory of the criminal.**³

HUO: Learning is deserting schools and going to the streets. Are streets becoming Thinkbelts? Cedric Price’s Potteries Thinkbelt used abandoned railroads for pop-up schools. What and where is learning today?

RV: **Learning is permanent for all of us regardless of age. Curiosity feeds the desire to know.** The call to teach stems from the pleasure of transmitting life: neither an imposition nor a power relation, it is pure gift, like life, from which it flows. **Economic totalitarianism has ripped learning away from life, whose creative conscience it ought to be.** We want to disseminate everywhere this poetry of knowledge that gives itself. Against school as a closed-off space (a barrack in the past, a slave market nowadays), we must invent nomadic learning.

HUO: How do you foresee the twenty-first-century university?

RV: The demise of the university: it will be liquidated by the quest for and daily practice of a universal learning of which it has always been but a pale travesty.

HUO: Could you tell me about the freeness principle (I am extremely interested in this; as a curator I have always believed museums should be free—Art for All, as Gilbert and George put it).

RV: **Freeness is the only absolute weapon capable of shattering the mighty self-destruction machine set in motion by consumer society, whose implosion is still releasing, like a deadly gas, bottom-line mentality, cupidity, financial gain, profit, and predation.** Museums and culture should be free, for sure, but so should public services, currently prey to the scamming multinationals and states. Free trains, buses, subways, free healthcare, free schools, free water, air, electricity, free power, all through alternative networks to be set up. **As freeness spreads, new solidarity networks will eradicate the stranglehold of the commodity. This is because life is a free gift, a continuous creation that the market’s vile profiteering alone deprives us of.**

HUO: Where is love in Oarystis?

RV: Everywhere. **The love affair, as complex as it is simple, will serve as the building block for the new solidarity relations that sooner or later will supersede selfish calculation, competition, competitiveness, and predation, causes of our societies’ dehumanization.**

HUO: Where is the city of the dead? In a forest rather than a cemetery?

RV: Yes, a forest, an auditorium in which the voices of the dead will speak amidst the lushness of nature, where life continuously creates itself anew.

HUO: Have you dreamt up other utopian cities apart from Oarystis? Or a concrete utopia in relation to the city?

RV: No, but I have not given up hope that such projects might mushroom and be realized one day, as we begin reconstructing a world devastated by the racketeering mafias.

HUO: In 1991 I founded a Robert Walser museum, a strollological museum, in Switzerland. I have always been fascinated by your notion of the stroll. Could you say something about your urban strolls with and without Debord? What about Walser's? Have other strollologists inspired you?

RV: I hold Robert Walser in high regard, as many do. His lucidity and sense of *dérive* enchanted Kafka. I have always been fascinated by the long journey Hölderlin undertook following his break-up with Diotima. I admire Chatwin's *Songlines*, in which he somehow manages to turn the most innocuous of walks into an intonation of the paths of fate, as though we were in the heart of the Australian bush. And I appreciate the strolls of Léon-Paul Fargue and the learning of Héron de Villefosse. My psychogeographic *dérives* with Guy Debord in Paris, Barcelona, Brussels, Beersel, and Antwerp were exceptional moments, combining theoretical speculation, sentient intelligence, the critical analysis of beings and places, and the pleasure of cheerful drinking. Our homeports were pleasant bistros with a warm atmosphere, havens where one was oneself because one felt in the air something of the authentic life, however fragile and short-lived. It was an identical mood that guided our wanderings through the streets, the lanes and the alleys, through the meanderings of a pleasure that our every step helped us gauge in terms of what it might take to expand and refine it just a little further. I have a feeling that the neighborhoods destroyed by the likes of Haussmann, Pompidou, and the real estate barbarians will one day be rebuilt by their inhabitants in the spirit of the joy and the life they once harbored.

HUO: What possibilities do you see for disalienation and *détournement* in 2009?

RV: **This is a time of unprecedented chaos in material and moral conditions. Human values are going to have to compensate for the effects of the only value that has prevailed so far: money. But the implosion of financial totalitarianism means that this currency, which has so tripped us up, is now doomed to devaluation and a loss of all meaning. The absurdity of money is becoming concrete. It will gradually give way to new forms of exchange that will hasten its disappearance and lead to a gift economy.**

HUO: What are the conditions for dialogue in 2009? Is there a way out of this system of isolation?

RV: **Dialogue with power is neither possible nor desirable. Power has always acted unilaterally, by organizing chaos, by spreading fear, by forcing individuals and communities into selfish and blind withdrawal. As a matter of course, we will invent new solidarity networks and new intervention councils for the well-being of all of us and each of us, overriding the fiats of the state and its mafioso-political hierarchies.** The voice of lived poetry will sweep away the last remaining echoes of a discourse in which words are in profit's pay.

HUO: In your recent books you discuss your existence and temporality. The homogenizing forces of globalization homogenize time, and vice versa. How does one break with this? Could you discuss the temporality of happiness, as a notion?

RV: **The productivity- and profit-based economy has implanted into lived human reality a separate reality structured by its ruling mechanisms: predation, competition and competitiveness, acquisitiveness and the struggle for power and subsistence. For thousands of years such denatured human behaviors have been deemed natural.** The temporality of draining, erosion, tiredness, and decay is determined by labor, an activity that dominates and corrupts all others. **The temporality of desire, love, and creation has a density that fractures the temporality of survival cadenced by work.** Replacing the temporality of money will be a temporality of desire, a beyond-the-mirror, an opening to uncharted territories.

HUO: Is life ageless?

RV: I don't claim that life is ageless. But since survival is nothing but permanent agony relieved by premature death, a renatured life that cultivates its full potential for passion and creation would surely achieve enough vitality to delay its endpoint considerably.

HUO: **The Revolution of Everyday Life** was a trigger for May '68, and you have stated in other interviews that it is your key book that you are continually rewriting. Was the book an epiphany? How did it change the course of your work? What had you been doing previously?

RV: The book was prompted by an urgent need I was feeling at the time for a new perspective on the world and on myself, to pull me out of my state of survival, by means other than through suicide. **This critical take on a consumer society that was corrupting and destroying life so relentlessly made me aware and conscious of my own life drive.** And it became clear to me very quickly that this wasn't a purely solipsistic project, that many readers were finding their own major concerns echoed there.

HUO: *The Revolution of Everyday Life* ends on an optimistic note: "We have a world of pleasures to win, and nothing to lose but boredom."⁴ Are you still an optimist today?

RV: "Pessimists, what is it you were hoping for?," Scutenaire wrote. I am neither a pessimist nor an optimist. **I try to remain faithful to a principle: desire everything, expect nothing.**

HUO: What is the most recent version of the book?

RV: *Entre le deuil du monde et la joie de vivre* [Between Mourning the World and Exuberant Life].

HUO: What book are you working on at the moment?

RV: I would love to have the resources to complete a Dictionary of Heresies, so as to clarify and correct the historical elements included in *The Movement of the Free Spirit and Resistance to Christianity*.

HUO: The question of temporality also brings us to Proust and his questionnaire (see inset) [at end of article]. What might your definition of happiness be in 2009?

RV: Living ever more intensely and passionately in an ever more intense world. To those who sneer at my ecstatic candor, I reply with a phrase that brings me great comfort: "The desire for an other life is that life already."⁵

HUO: Do you have unrealized projects? Unrealized books, unrealized projects in fields other than writing, unrealized architectural projects?

RV: **My priority is to live better and better in a world that is more and more human.** I would love to build the "urban countryside" of Oarystis, but I'm not just waiting patiently, like Fourier at the Palais Royal, for some billionaire to decide to finance the project only to lose everything to the financial crash a minute later.

HUO: What about your collaborations with other artists, painters, sculptors, designers, filmmakers?

RV: I don't collaborate with anyone. At times I have offered a few texts to artist friends, not as a commentary on their work but as a counterpoint to it. Art moves me when, in it, I can sense its own overcoming, something that goes beyond it; when it nurtures a trace of life that blossoms as a true aspiration, the intuition of a new art of living.

HUO: Could you tell me about Brussels? What does Brussels mean to you? Where do you write?

RV: I live in the country, facing a garden and woods where the rhythm of the seasons has retained its beauty. Brussels as a city has been destroyed by urbanists and architects who are paid by real estate developers. There are still a few districts suitable for nice walks. I am fond of a good dozen wonderful cafés where one can enjoy excellent artisanal beers.

HUO: Do you agree with Geremek's view that Europe is the big concern of the twenty-first century?

RV: I am not interested in this Europe ruled by racketeering bureaucracies and corrupt democracies. And regions only interest me once they are stripped of their regionalist ideology and are experiencing self-management and direct democracy. I feel neither Belgian nor European. **The only homeland is a humanity that is at long last sovereign.**

HUO: You have used a lot of pseudonyms. Je est un autre [I is an other]? How do you find or choose pseudonyms? How many pseudonyms have you used? Is there a complete list?

RV: I don't keep any kind of score. I leave it up to the inspiration of the moment. There is nothing secret about using a pseudonym. Rather, it is about creating a distance, most often in commissioned work. This allows me to have some fun while alleviating my enduring financial difficulties, which I have always refused to resolve by compromising with the world of the spectacle.

HUO: A book that has been used by many artists and architects has been your Dictionnaire de citations pour servir au divertissement et à l'intelligence du temps [Dictionary of Quotations for the Entertainment and Intelligence of Our Time]. Where did that idea come from?

RV: It was a suggestion from my friend Pierre Drachline, who works for the Cherche Midi publishing house.

HUO: You have often criticized environmental movements who try to replace existing capitalism with capitalism of a different type. What do you think of Joseph Beuys? What non-capitalist project or movement do you support?

RV: We are being "offered" biofuels on the condition we agree to transgenic rapeseed farming. Eco-tourism will accelerate the plundering of our biosphere. Windmill farms are being built without any advantage to the consumers. Those are the areas where intervention is possible. **Natural resources belong to us, they are free, they must be made to serve the freedom of life. It will be up to the communities to secure their own energy and food independence so as to free themselves from the control of the multinationals and their state vassals everywhere. Claiming natural power for our use means reclaiming our own existence first. Only creativity will rid us of work.**

HUO: Last but not least, Rilke wrote that wonderful little book of advice to a young poet. What would your advice be to a young philosopher-writer in 2009?

RV: **To apply to his own life the creativity he displays in his work. To follow the path of the heart, of what is most alive in him.**

Translated from the French by Eric Anglès

Proust Questionnaire, answered by Raoul Vaneigem

What is your main personality trait?
Laziness.

What quality do you appreciate most in a man?
Generosity coupled with human awareness of life.

What quality do you appreciate most in a woman?
Love and love of life.

What is your favorite virtue?

Creativity.

What is your main shortcoming?

My lack of self-confidence.

What is your favorite activity?

Opening myself to life so life can open in me.

What is your dream for happiness?

Realizing my desires by fulfilling those of my loved ones.

What would your greatest misfortune be?

Failing to contribute to the happiness of all.

Who would you have wished to be?

Myself, more and more alive.

Where would you like to live?

Everywhere genuine humanity prevails.

What is your favorite flower?

All of them, with a soft spot for the rose ancienne.

What is your favorite bird?

All of them, with a special fondness for the blackbird that sings in the evening.

Who are your favorite writers of prose?

Montaigne, La Boétie, Shakespeare, Diderot, Kafka, Artaud, Benjamin, Orwell, Zweig.

Who are your favorite poets?

Villon, Blake, Hölderlin, Nerval, Fourier.

Who are your male heroes in literature?

Hyperion.

Who are your female heroes in literature?

Little Kaethchen of Heilbronn.

Who are your favorite composers?

Mozart, Boccherini.

Who are your favorite painters?

Giorgione, Turner, Goya, Van Gogh.

Who are your male heroes in history?

Eloi Pruystinck, Sebastian Castellio, Edouard Carouy and André Soudy, Albert Libertad, Flores Magón, Alexandre Marius Jacob, Jan Valtin.

Who are your female heroes in history?

Olympe de Gouges, Claire Démar, Louise Michel, Qurratulain.

What are your favorite names?

Ariane, Chiara, Ariel, Tristan.

What do you hate above all else?

Voluntary servitude.

Which historical figures do you despise the most?

All tyrants, slaughterers of the people, perpetrators of human suffering and those who honor them.

Which military feat do you admire the most?

None.

Which reform do you hold in highest regard?

Those that humanize man.

Which natural talent would you have wished to have?

The ability to better disseminate the human awareness of life.

How would you like to die?

Peacefully, at the hour I choose.

What is your present state of mind?

A precarious balance between what I am and what I wish to be.

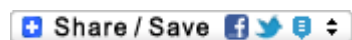
Which wrongs do you tolerate the best?

There are no wrongs, just mistakes to rectify.

What is your motto?

Desire everything, expect nothing.

e-flux [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:51 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Alexander Zaitchik: The Vanishing Face Of Gaia](#)

The Vanishing Face of Gaia

Are we prepared for whatever's coming?

by Alexander Zaitchik [article link](#)

17 Mar 2010 Adbusters

“Just as in 1939 we had to give up on a massive scale the comfortable lifestyle of peacetime, so soon we may feel rich with only a quarter of what we consume now. If we do it right and with enthusiasm, it will not seem a depressing phase of denial but instead, as in 1940, a chance to redeem ourselves. For the young, life will be full of opportunities to serve, to create, and they will have a purpose for living.”

- James Lovelock from The Vanishing Face of Gaia: A Final Warning.

If people know anything about the British scientist James Lovelock, it is his theory of a living Earth, known as Gaia. Lovelock began formulating this revolutionary vision in the late 1960s while working at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. It was there, not far from the ground zero of West Coast counterculture, that he began to wonder: Might the Earth possess a sophisticated planetary intelligence, one that regulates the countless interactions of plants,

animals, minerals, gases and the sun's heat (all of the ingredients and products of ever-evolving life) in such a way as to maintain a climate homeostasis amenable to a lush, living planet? In short, does Mother Earth like life, and does she do her best to make us comfortable?

Once regarded as a quasi-mystical expression of longing more than a science-based insight, Lovelock's theory has overcome the skepticism of his peers. Over the course of four decades of research and experiment, Gaia has officially graduated from a hypothesis to a theory. **It is now widely accepted that the biosphere's elements are no passive collection of independent actors responding to conditions but together form a living web that actively creates and maintains those conditions, including temperature.** Lovelock has been compared to Copernicus and Darwin for fathering and nurturing the Gaia paradigm.

In recent years, however, Lovelock has been more frequently compared to a trumpeter of doom. Over the course of three books and dozens of articles and interviews, Lovelock has emerged since the mid-2000s as the world's leading climate pessimist and stoic. **By his estimation it is not only too late for climate legislation as currently proposed; it is too late for any legislation, however radical. Cataclysmic climate change will hit in the coming century, he believes. Any efforts to pretend otherwise only delay the necessary work of preparing for the climate apocalypse.**

"Most of the 'green' stuff is verging on a gigantic scam," Lovelock told the New Scientist shortly before the release of his latest book, *The Vanishing Face of Gaia*. "Carbon trading, with its huge government subsidies, is just what finance and industry wanted. It's not going to do a damn thing about climate change, but it'll make a lot of money for a lot of people and postpone the moment of reckoning."

Lovelock's steep descent into morbidity – he would call it clarity – began with his controversial 2006 book, *The Revenge of Gaia*, in which the 90-year-old scientist put hope junkies on notice. That contrarian work sought to demolish the terms of the climate debate as childlike and based on wishful thinking. Angering his erstwhile environmentalist allies, it also mocked our response to the crisis at the personal, national and species level.

Lovelock's dark certainty about looming climate collapse results from his viewing current climate data through the lens of Gaia Theory. This lens, he maintains, allows for a more comprehensive, intuitive and ultimately more accurately predictive approach. Much of his last book is devoted to explaining why attempts to accurately model climate change with cold computers is akin to the blind efforts of a 19th-century doctor trying to treat diabetes. He notes that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and its many mainframes have successfully undershot all indicator trends so far. Most notably, sea-level rise has outpaced IPCC predictions at a rate of 2 to 1.

Of all the trends to watch, Lovelock maintains sea level rise is the most important. Given the complexity of the millions of interactions within the Gaia system, Lovelock argues it is best to ignore year-to-year temperature fluctuations and instead watch the oceans. The seas, he says, are the lone trustworthy indicator of the earth's heat balance. "Sea level rise is the best available measure of the heat absorbed by the earth because it comes from only two things," he writes. "[These are] the melting of glaciers and the expansion of water as it warms. Sea level is the thermometer that indicates true global heating."

Lovelock believes the oceans will expand and rise ever faster, fueled by the dreaded positive feedback loops now under way, which will soon become ferocious amplifiers of global heating. (He finds "warming" too soft a word for the process.) The most important of these feedback loops are the loss of reflective ice cover, replaced by heat absorbent dark water; the death of carbon-eating algae as oceans warm and acidify; and the release of vast stores of methane as the Siberian permafrost thaws. **These self-feeding cycles, already in motion, will explode in the coming decades, Lovelock maintains, leading to sudden and dramatic shifts in global climate.** "The Earth's history and simple climate models based on the notion of a live and responsive Earth suggest that sudden change and surprise are more likely than the smooth rising curve of temperature that modelers predict for the next 90 years," he writes.

The end result of this surge of change will be a drastic reduction of Earth's carrying capacity. And we need to start preparing now.

“There is no tipping point, just a slope that gets ever steeper,” writes Lovelock. “Because of the rapidity of the Earth’s change, we will need to respond more like the inhabitants of a city threatened by a flood. When they see the unstoppable rise of water, their only option is to escape to higher ground. We have to make our lifeboats seaworthy now [and] stop pretending there is any way back to that lush, comfortable and beautiful Earth we left behind sometime in the 20th century.”

Given this future, delusional politics is a waste of precious time. Indeed, Lovelock’s impatience with feel-good “Yes, we can” liberal environmentalism borders on contempt. He writes that fashionable rhetoric about sustainable development just shows that we “weave the sound of the alarm clock into our dreams.” In one of the book’s many memorable passages on the green politics of hope, Lovelock compares alternative energy to deathbed snake oil peddled by an alt-medicine quack.

“Just as we as individuals try alternative medicine,” writes Lovelock, “our governments have many offers from alternative businesses and their lobbies of sustainable ways to ‘save the planet,’ and from some green hospice there may come the anodyne of hope.”

Lovelock brightens up considerably once he gets past the mechanics of the coming die-off. He is cautiously hopeful that as many as several hundred million humans will survive the century and carve pockets of civilization into the coming hot state. **Our current global civilization is about to end, but there is every reason to “take hope from the fact that our species is unusually tough and is unlikely to go extinct in the coming climate catastrophe.”**

Here enters Lovelock the playful futurist. Those who survive will be responsible for maintaining a high-tech, low-impact, low-energy society advanced enough to keep the flame of progress alive but small and smart enough to carefully husband what arable land remains. Lovelock guesses the rump human race will cluster around a few temperate islands in the far northern hemisphere, including his native UK. He believes that if emergency preparations are made in time – he compares the present moment to 1939 – and if the worst-case scenarios of geopolitical conflict are avoided – namely resource scrambles leading to global thermonuclear war – then something resembling a modern and even urban lifestyle could await the survivors. There may even be food critics in this future, which need not resemble a Soylent Green scenario of cannibalism and state-rationed crackers. This future civilization will synthesize food from CO₂, nitrogen, water and a few minerals. Simple amino acids and sugars, Lovelock cheerfully explains, can be used as feedstock for bulk animal and vegetable tissue created in chemical vats from biopsies. Yum!

A quarter century ago Carl Sagan issued a strange and compelling plea for nuclear disarmament. He urged the superpowers to abolish their thermonuclear arsenals for the sake of mankind’s future evolution and eventual colonization of the galaxy. **Echoing Sagan, Lovelock believes it is our duty as an intelligent race, the only one in the cosmic neighborhood, to survive. Only by carrying the flame of civilization into the next century will we have a chance to evolve beyond our current tribal-carnivore brains, which are dominated by short-term thinking and thus responsible for our current predicament.**

Whereas Sagan dreamed of alien contact, Lovelock’s promised land is more humble: an evolved species capable of living in balance with Gaia. In the meantime the Earth will grow and change as it always has. Life will continue, human life included, even though billions will suffer and die. Gaia, an aging planet, will roll into the new climate as best she can. **In her wise generosity, she will even leave some hospitable land for us, the offending species, “to survive and to live in a way that gives evolution beyond us, into a wiser and more intelligent animal, a chance.”**

Whether this distant outcome should be enough to sustain our spirits during whatever’s coming, no one can say. It is for each of us to decide.

Alexander Zaitchik is a freelance journalist and contributing writer at AlterNet.org. His work has appeared in the Nation, the Believer, Wired and the New Republic.

Adbusters [front page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:21 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

[Secular Prophets: Indicant 9](#)

Social Inequality in America: Widening Income Disparities.

by Vi Ransel [article link](#)

Global Research, March 24, 2010

"When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist."
- Brazilian archbishop Dom Helder Camara

"The difference between social service and social justice" is that social service "works to alleviate hardship" while social justice "aims to eradicate the root causes of that hardship."
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The "**aristocracy of our moneyed incorporations**" has never conceded a thing, not even to suppress a revolt. This "opulent minority" does not "give" what it does not intend to begin to claw back with its cold, non-living corporate "hand" before the ink is dry on the signatures on treaties, the Fourteenth Amendment, even the New Deal, perhaps the greatest bowl of gruel ever cooked up by an oligarchy.

Reforms, regulatory agencies and elections themselves are America's Circus Maximus, mere flourishes on the veneer of democracy painted over the naked concentration of power accrued to the few who hold the reins of the corporate mechanism, the most stunningly efficient means ever invented for accumulating and concentrating wealth, which is then translated into political power.

The mid-twentieth century "deal" between the "opulent minority," the government and the people left the "opulent minority" with the lion's share of the country's wealth, but a little bit more of that wealth was shared with the workers who created it. The government was the referee who enforced the rules, and the years between the end of the Second World War and 1970 were America's most prosperous overall, producing the largest, wealthiest middle class in history.

Americans assumed that this was the new normal, that a solid social contract was now standard operating procedure. But this overall prosperity was only a glitch in minority rule, a safety valve to stem the pressure of a popular, revolutionary mood that had been building since the Civil War and had come to a head during the Great Depression. **Now the country is returning to its natural state, including the immense chasm between the incomes of the "opulent minority" and the rest of us, as squalor once again stands side by side with splendor.**

"According to the United Nations Gini Coefficient, which measures the national distribution of family income, the US had the highest level of inequality of the highly industrialized countries, based on the data available in 2008. It was ranked slightly more unequal than Sri Lanka, and on a par with Ghana and Turkmenistan. (1)

In the 70s, US economic global supremacy was waning, in large part, due to increasing competition from Europe and Japan as they recovered from the devastation of World War II. **This made the "opulent minority" rethink the New Deal-bone they'd tossed to the majority of Americans, and they brought in Ronald Reagan to put in force a Raw Deal that began a cascade of deregulation, privatization and consolidation that put America back astride the global economy by putting America's wealth gap on the way back to the Gilded Age.** Today the "opulent minority" appropriates everything it can get its hands on - "legally" - while the middle class holds on by its fingernails and the rest of us go over an economic Niagara Falls without a barrel into "Third" World-style poverty. **Government is no longer the referee that promotes the general welfare. Government is the facilitator for the "opulent minority," ensuring that they can extract every last penny from the people they impoverish.**

Since 1980, the richest Americans have seen their incomes quadruple, while for the "lowest" 90% of us, incomes fell. The average wage is lower today than it was in the 1970s, while productivity has risen almost 50%. (2) In 1983 middle class debt held at 67% of income. In 2007, middle class debt had gone over the falls to 157% of income. (3) In 1950 the ratio of the average executive's paycheck to the average worker's was about 30 to 1. Since 2000 that average has ranged from 300 to 500 to one. (4)

"As of late 2009, the number of billionaires soared from 793 to 1,011, and their total fortunes from \$2.4 trillion to \$3.6 trillion. ...Despite the crisis, the list of billionaires has grown by 200 people and their aggregate capital has expanded by 50%. This may seem paradoxical but only at first glance. This result was predictable, if we recall how governments all over the world have dealt with the economic crisis." (5)

This is the result of a deliberate strategy, one Washington has executed many, many times, though usually in "Third" World nations, by using "Free" Trade Agreements (FTAs) and its front groups, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization. Purchased politicians plunge their countries into unsustainable debt. Under **Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs)**, national industries are sold to transnational corporations and privatized. Social programs are cut to the bone or eliminated altogether. Interest rates are ratcheted up and the economy collapses on itself like the World Trade Center while banks and corporate buzzards fight each other to pick the carcass clean.

Building on such controlled demolitions, the corporate-owned media has discovered a rash of "profligate countries" - much like our own - that have been living beyond their means and must now take their medicine. And the near-universal prescription is SAPs. The discovery of this pandemic of profligacy, as opposed to the pandemic of poverty, was prompted by demands from the same international banksters who plunged the world into a financial "crisis" for their personal profit to the point of bankrupting their own countries in order to bail themselves out.

But the New York Times' Thomas Friedman says "...we've just had our 70 fat years in America..." and "...leadership... has largely been about giving things away..." He cites Michael Mandelbaum of John Hopkins University saying "...the great task of government and of leadership is going to be about taking things away from people," and adds that "...to lead now is to trim, to fire or to downsize services, programs or personnel." **He then compares Americans to locusts that have eaten "the prosperity that was bequeathed us."**

But the New York State comptroller's report has outted the real profligates. Wall Street bonuses rose to \$20.3 billion in 2009, while New York Stock Exchange broker-dealer firms raked in more than \$55 billion in profits, about three times their previous record. And pay packages at the biggest Wall Street banks shot up 31%.

Between 1978 and 2008, almost 35% of America's total income growth went to the top one-tenth of one percent of "us." (6) And according to economists Thomas Piketty and Emmanuel Saez, two-thirds of income increases between 2002 and 2007 went to the wealthiest 1% of society, a higher share of income than at any time since 1928.

The average income of the top-earning 400 US families quintupled from \$16 million to \$87 million between 1992 and 2007. The rest of us averaged a 13% loss before the financial crisis. And since then millions more of us have plunged over the falls into joblessness, poverty, homelessness and hunger. These are the conditions Friedman tells us must be drastically driven down.

And both the White House and Congress concur. In order to balance the budget they tell us, social programs must be cut because this "profligate" safety net created to promote the general welfare of the majority of the American people has bankrupted the federal government.

But in fact, just the opposite is true. The rich, aided and abetted by the two wings of the Money Party, have bankrupted the government. The economic crisis is pulling back the curtain of democratic pretense to expose the brick wall of a callous system that ignores social needs to satisfy the whims of a parasitic "opulent minority."

And while "...Wall Street has extracted \$13 trillion in bailouts just since October 2008, the thought of raising taxes on wealth to pay just \$1 trillion over an entire decade for Social Security or health insurance is deemed a crisis that would lead Wall Street to shut down the economy." (7) Wall Street is demanding that governments around the world makeup for the profligacy of the financial sector by taking what little they left to their victims through higher taxes and slashing or eliminating social programs. This is the basis of the global financial "crisis."

It's the mechanism of corporate colonization coming home to roost. This time the US is the economic colony du jour. The middle class in America is being crushed and brushed off the economic banquet table like crumbs, while wealth continues to shift to the "opulent minority" waiting at the top of the wealth pyramid, calmly sipping mint juleps as they arrange all the repression they'll need to put down potential unrest. Deja vu. **We're right back where we were when King George III and the British East India Company were in charge.**

Reagan's crushing of PATCO, the air traffic controllers' union, was the hunter's horn that signaled to the corporate jackal pack that they were now free to hunt down and attack the right to organize, forcing labor, that's us, to be "flexible," e.g. to accept less and less for more and more work that must be done faster and faster with fewer and fewer of us as we create the real wealth of society. We became contingent labor, part time labor, contract labor, temp labor, permatemp labor, at-will workers, and "free" agents to a contract where employers have all the liberty to contract and we have the liberty to accept their terms or become unemployed labor.

And though US output per worker rose at its fastest rate in six years during the second quarter of 2009, businesses wrung more from remaining workers, and this newly "flexible" labor force got only a fraction of their former wages. New hires at what's left of the Big Three auto companies make less than workers made at those same companies in 1948. (8)

"America touts itself as the land of the free, but the number one freedom you and I have is the freedom to enter into a subservient role in the workplace. Once you exercise this freedom, you've lost all control over what you do, what is produced, and how it is produced. And in the end, the product doesn't belong to you. The only way you can avoid bosses and jobs is if you don't care about making a living, which leads to the second freedom: the freedom to starve." - Tom Morella

The people, the "demos" in democracy, have been propagandized 24/7 with sophisticated Public Diplomacy that manufactures "consent" via the corporate ownership of information/media. It works. They wouldn't spend billions on advertising and lobbying if it didn't. In 2009, 495,145 million dollars was spent on advertising alone,(9) and \$3.47 billion on lobbying. (10) Last year, "There were 12,553 lobbyists registered in Washington..." But a better count of those engaged in unregistered lobbying "...would be about 90,000..." (11)

And in this way, the "opulent minority" led us to believe we were actually going to get a deal, whether Square, Fair or New, that we were headed out across a New Frontier as part of a Great Society, that it was Morning in America and we were crossing a Bridge to the 21st Century while engaged in Change We Can Believe In - all while running in place. Way back at Morning in America someone should have told us to wake up and smell the coffee. Can you still afford coffee?

Our representatives, both Republicans and Democrats, ignore their constituents and vote the interests of their corporate campaign contributors, the Supreme Court has given our constitutional rights to a business mechanism for generating profit via "corporate personhood," and our president's campaign was named Advertising Age's "Marketer of the Year," 2008.

The people have been punked by all three branches of our corrupt and purchased government - legislative, executive and judicial - which compete to kiss the hems of the lavish purple robes of board room barons and their lobbyist courtiers, who themselves are puppets of plutocratic shareholders ensconced on the throne behind the corporate curtain.

As the people's attention was diverted not only by sports, gossip as news, and competitive consumption while trying to subsist on crumbs from the "opulent minority's" table, government policy changes were crushing unions and jobs were "exported," first to the southern states, then Mexico, then China, then Thailand and Viet Nam, and soon to Africa in a

never-ending safari to find the world's most desperate people, and thus the highest profits by squeezing the most work out of those who have the least.

Disney paid Haitian workers 28 cents an hour to make children's pajamas. Wal-Mart pays Nicaraguans \$1.50 a day to make blue jeans. In the US the average Wal-Mart worker earns \$12,000, making one-half of the total workforce of 720,000 eligible for food stamps. This saves Wal-Mart about \$432 million dollars in wages it doesn't have to pay every year.

Do the math. If 360,000 Wal-Mart workers each receive just \$100 in food stamps every month, that's \$36 million Wal-Mart doesn't have to pay in wages every month, or \$432 million each year. The American people make up for these unpaid wages with their taxes to supply Wal-Mart workers with food stamps to feed their families in lieu of wages. That's going on half a billion dollars every year.

Collectively, Walton heirs have \$65 billion and own over 1.7 billion shares, or 43% of Wal-Mart stock. They received another \$29 billion from the rise in share prices from November 2007 to June, 2008 alone. (12) **If you made \$50,000 a year, it would take you 20,000 - that's 20,000 - years to make one billion dollars. And as for the trillions in taxpayer dollars transferred no questions asked to the banks, if you made one million dollars a day every day since the birth of Christ, you still wouldn't have even one trillion dollars.**

In the meantime, corporations such as these have left the US with no industrial or economic base, while tax policy continues to divert money from workers and their children to the ridiculously wealthy. Jobs have been shipped out of the US to low wage platforms constructed on desperate people by the largest, most "efficient" and profitable corporations, which are now trying to drive US wages down even further by importing "indentured servants" on H1-B visas who will do high tech jobs at much less than the going rate in America.

And as for illegal immigration, successive administrations have never actually wanted to stop it, which may have been the point of NAFTA in the first place. By driving a flood of impoverished workers across the border to take jobs at the very corporations that wouldn't be able to exist without such "illegal" labor, the cost of US wages could be driven down across the board.

"For the first time since the Great Depression, the United States experienced zero job growth in a decade. Zero. And zero is actually worse than it sounds since none of the preceding six decades registered job growth of less than 20%. By comparison, the 1970s, which are often bemoaned as a time of economic stagflation and political malaise, registered a 27% increase in jobs." (13)

The White House Council of Economic Advisors released its Economic Report to the President on Feb. 12, but despite its projection that mass unemployment will continue for years, its "...projections in fact are optimistic. They are based on the assumption that real GDP will grow by 3.0 percent this year (4th quarter to 4th quarter), and 4.3 percent in 2011. This compares to real GDP growth of minus 1.9 percent in 2008 and minus 0.5 percent in 2009." (14)

Spending can't resume until workers are paid enough to be able to consume. Money in workers' hands is spent immediately into the economy. In the US such spending has been responsible for 70% of GDP, but jobless workers can't sustain demand for consumer goods, and thus can no longer generate that 70%. Still this administration has not lifted a finger to put people back to work and restart the demand mechanism.

But "Sen. John Kyle of Arizona, the Republican whip, argued that unemployment benefits dissuade people from job-hunting 'because people are being paid even though they're not working.' Unemployment insurance 'doesn't create new jobs. In fact, if anything, continuing to pay people unemployment compensation is a disincentive for them to seek new work.'" (15)

And "Former House Majority Leader Tom Delay...has an explanation for the high rates of unemployment that continue to plague the economy... 'There is an argument that these extensions, the unemployment benefits, keep people from going and finding jobs,' he told CNN's Candy Crowley.. 'In fact, there are some studies that have been done that show people stay on unemployment compensation and they don't look for a job until two or three weeks before they know the benefits are going

to run out.' 'People are unemployed because they want to be?' asked Crowley. 'Well, it is the truth. And people in the real world know it.'" (16)

And while Nevada representative Dean Heller says he believes there should be a social safety net, he questions the wisdom of extending unemployment benefits, asking, "Is the government now creating hobos?"

The "official" American jobless count as 2010 began was over 10%, but it's actually closer to one in five, both unemployed and underemployed. There are six of us for every job available. Former auto production center Detroit has the highest official unemployment rate at 27%, but the real figure stands near 50 %. No new jobs have been added since December 2007, while in the same period Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke says the private sector lost eight million jobs. Factoring in population growth, we need to add 150,000 jobs a month just to stay even, so the total jobs lost is over 10.5 million. The Fed predicts unemployment will stay at least 7% through 2011, and we're shedding half a million jobs a month on average. (17)

Twenty million of us collected unemployment in 2009 and 25 states borrowed billions of dollars to keep those benefits flowing. (18) First time jobless benefit claims in the third week of February rose to their highest levels since the week ending Nov 14, according to the US Labor Department.

In New York, unemployment benefits are taxed at roughly 40%, even though the people receiving unemployment are getting back money they paid into federal and state unemployment systems when they were still working. This "unemployment tax" goes back to the Reagan Administration. "Under the guise of tax reform, we agreed to raise \$2.3 billion from people who don't have jobs." - Rep. Brian Donnelly (D - MA) 1985 And when banks and insurance firms are literally awash in hundreds of billions of taxpayer bailout dollars, it seems supremely hypocritical to tax unemployment checks, which are the only "income" millions of people have - and their only means of survival. (19)

And since 1996 the number of people with no income at all has been rising. Clinton and a Republican Congress ended welfare, the federal relief program instituted in the 30s. Pledging to "end the cycle of dependency," the Democrats joined the Republicans to impose lifetime limits on benefits, drastically reduce cash assistance, and place restrictive "workfare" and other requirements on further aid. And in spite of our current need for relief, the Obama Administration opposes any additional funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), all that's left of the welfare program. (20)

In January 2003 the Washington Post reported, "Citing a shortage of money, the Bureau of Labor Statistics will stop publishing information about factory closings across the country...known as the Mass Layoffs statistics report, (it) detailed where workplaces with more than 50 employees closed and what kinds of workers were affected." (21)

While Congress overturned this move by the Bush Administration, on March 3, 2010 the Post again reported "...The Bureau of Labor Statistics tracks globalization's winners and losers... Manufacturing jobs here, for example, have fallen faster since 1979 than in Canada, Germany or Japan. Compensation for these jobs dropped here in 2008, but jumped in South Korea and Australia. Soon, however, Americans may be spared the demoralization of these numbers: the White House wants to shutter the unit that produces them." (22)

How convenient. In his State of the Union Address, the president "called for a massive expansion of the NAFTA trade model into Colombia, South Korea and Panama. So you can bet this announcement by the White House is no accident - it's preemptive." (23) Now you can't know.

In 2009 there were 2.82 billion foreclosures - almost 8,000 every day. (24) Another 2.4 million are expected this year. (25) By year's end, foreclosures will exceed 7 million, possibly going to 10 million. (26) And the Commerce Department reported that new home sales dropped 11.2% in January, the lowest level on record in nearly 50 years.

"Houses on sale for a few dollars are something of an urban legend in the US on the back of the mortgage crisis that drove millions of people from their homes. But in Detroit, it is no myth. One in five houses now stand empty in the city that launched the automobile age, forged America's middle class and blessed the world with Motown. Drive through Detroit

neighbourhoods once clogged with the cars that made the city the envy of America and there are homes to be had for a single dollar." (27)

First American CoreLogic data shows 11.3 million houses had underwater mortgages in the fourth quarter of 2009, or 24% of all residential home loans in the US, and that "an additional 2.3 million mortgages were approaching 'negative equity' at the end of last year..." This means that three out of ten American homes "have virtually no value to their owners." (28)

One point four million Americans filed for personal bankruptcy in the first nine months of 2009 in spite of the punitive new Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005. A study conducted by Harvard Medical School in 2007 found that 62.1% of the bankruptcies in their sample were due to medical expenses, and that three-quarters of those who filed for bankruptcy had health insurance. (Forty-seven million of us have no health insurance at all.)

More and more Americans are filing "for Chapter 7 bankruptcy which - if approved - allows a court to discharge most unsecured consumer debt, including credit card bills." The goal of the 2005 law was to force more people to file for Chapter 13 bankruptcy, which requires those with regular income to pay debts in full, or in part, over several years. (29)

But Chapter 13 filings decreased 3% from January to February (30) because "People generally file for Chapter 13 to try to save a home." - Robert Lawless, University of Illinois Now people are unable to borrow on the equity in their homes to avoid bankruptcy, and many of them no longer have homes to save. (31)

But since the law changed in 2005, the bankruptcy rate has risen every year. "We are already on a faster pace in 2010 than we were a year ago.. Consumer filings will likely surpass 1.5 million filings this year." - Samuel Gerdano, American Bankruptcy Institute Chapter 7 filings were up 41% in 2009, while Chapter 13 filings were up only 12%. (32)

The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005, in effect, makes the government a collection agency for credit card corporations that make "bad judgments" about credit risks (often on purpose). In a real free market, those who make bad loans risk losing money. This law does away with that risk, charging government with following debtors for decades, and bailing out reckless credit card corporations.

In 2008 the US Census showed 47.4 million of us were living under the official poverty line. For a family of four it's just \$22,000, or \$4,400 per person per year. Can you live on \$4,400 a year? In 2008 the USDA reported that 49.1 million of us had no dependable access to food. Food charities saw demand rise 30% between the summer of 2008 and the summer of 2009. On December 11, 2009, the USDA reported that a record 37.2 million of us were eating thanks to food stamps, or one out of every eight. On January 13, 2010, the New York Times reported that six million of us were living on no income other than \$100-\$200 in food stamps.

"Over 8.8 million households will have received heating assistance by winter's end, up from 7.7 million last year and 5.7 million in 2008, according to a new report from the National Energy Assistance Director's Association (NEADA). About 4.3 million households had utilities disconnected in 2009..." "In spite of mounting unemployment, Congress this year approved the same amount of money as it did last year for heating assistance, allocating \$5.1 billion for the states to administer LIHEAP - a figure substantially less than several Wall Street banks paid their executives in 2009." (33)

Utility shutoffs in July 2009 bit hard as winter settled in on many of us living dangerously without heat or electricity - until we weren't living at all, frozen or else burned to death trying to keep warm with space heaters while "stealing" electricity. **More and more people are living in Hooverville-style tent cities, in their cars, and in shacks made of wood, metal and cardboard scraps. They have no running water, plumbing or electricity. And these are the people with "homes." A 2007 study by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty found that approximately 3.5 million of us are likely to experience homelessness in a given year.**

Eighty thousand people in Detroit lined up in October 2009 looking for help with their utility bills. Over a three-day period, 10,000 people showed up for 90 jobs making washing machines in Kentucky for \$27,000 a year. (34) And remember, even at \$50,000 a year it would take 20,000 years to make one of Gates', Buffet's or the Waltons' billions.

But the "opulent minority" of corporate shareholders prefer their workers poor, the poorer the better. Desperately poor people work harder and faster for less, afraid not to take what they're grudgingly offered. And the poorer they are, the less able they are to defend themselves against the abuse doled out by the corporations these shareholders own. "It is easier to control those who are struggling for survival than...those who are striving for improvement." - Dennis Kaiser

And further, we're supposed to be in debt. Consumer debt has been the engine of the American economy since wages leveled off and began to drop in the 70s. Employers paid less in order to raise their profit margins. The financial sector extended credit, aka debt, as a way for workers to continue to consume while receiving less wages. This also had the effect of increasing the financial sector's profit from the interest on that debt. This credit/debt kept the engine going as the employer-corporations and the financial sector profited while American worker-consumers were beginning to drown in that very same debt/credit.

But if no one was in debt and everyone was saving money, the economy wouldn't be performing as well as it should. Alan Greenspan, former Fed Chairman, believes consumer debt is "a very potent and very desirable financial institution" (July 25, 2005) and that pay raises are inflationary. **Keeping people poor and using those debt-created income streams, e.g. the monthly interest payments, for collateral allows Wall Street to borrow against that debt in order to take out loans to finance investments/risks/bets and boost the stock market.**

"Despite the fact that its charter starts off by directing it to promote full employment and stable prices, the Fed is anti-labor in practice. Alan Greenspan famously bragged that what has caused quiescence among labor union members when it comes to striking for higher wages or even for better working conditions is the fear of being fired and being unable to meet their mortgage and credit card payments. **One paycheck away from homelessness, or a downgraded credit rating leading to soaring interest charges has become a formula for labor management."** (35)

Our economy is designed to "increase injustice, inequality and exploitation," in order to perpetuate the dominion of the "opulent minority" over us. And the deregulation of every sector of the US market was a deliberate policy decision by these stunningly insane, sociopathic, genocidal maniacs, who kept our economy alive by creating more debt/credit in order to enrich themselves with the interest payments. Now the economy is getting intravenous bailouts of taxpayer money while it languishes on life support.

And how low can they go? Check this out. "The United States is one of the few countries that allow the sale of human blood plasma for profits. Across the country, countless workers are selling the yellowy substance found in their blood to the pharmaceutical giants of Wall Street." (36)

"Cerberus Capital, one of Wall Street's most notoriously ruthless leveraged-buyout firms recently made a \$1.8 billion killing in their human plasma investment...by paying peanuts to their impoverished human plasma donors..., jacking up the price of plasma by restricting supply,...then selling the refined products to the most desperately ill..." Despite the billions Wall Street makes off plasma, donors get \$30 for an hour spent hooked to a blood-sucking machine. Plasma profiteers set up franchises all along the Texas-Mexico border and plastered the Mexican side with ads promising easy cash. They even have special plasma-farm buses on the American side just waiting to haul their human cattle to their milking stations. (37)

But Fed Chair Ben Bernanke says at least the recession is over. **Ben is the mouthpiece for "an offshore banking cartel" that predicts precisely the amount of "I.O.U. paper " it can print and circulate without disrupting the Ponzi scheme of fractional reserve banking.** And now that Ben's officially declared the end to the recession, "well, hallelujah! We can quit rolling our own and buy ready mades and run recklessly through the Dollar Store scooping up dented canned goods and cheap Chinese tube socks... It is over for the most important members of a capitalist society, the oligarchs and banksters who have made fortunes off this recession, thanks to our unique economic system, and may now return to their standard garden variety usury." (38)

We have a deficit with every part of the world. We're dependent on imports of food, drink, industrial supplies and materials. We can't even produce our own cars and trucks. We depend more on imports of manufactured consumer goods than on imported oil. We can't make our own clothes, shoes, appliances, machinery, electric generation or telecommunications equipment. We don't even own our own roads. (39) Soon imported goods will be priced out of reach and anything still made or grown here will be exported to wealthier consumers overseas.

On 11/17/09 Robert Parry reported that Bernanke, in an address to the Economic Club of New York, gave "Americans a glimpse of the ugly truth about their future job prospects. Simply put, companies have found that they can shed workers and rely on technological advances and overseas factories to operate with a lot fewer employees." They've "found longer-lasting, efficiency-enhancing changes that allowed them to reduce their workforces..." Also, "employers have reduced hours for the workers they have retained... these data suggest that the excess supply of labor is even greater than indicated by the unemployment rate alone..." Employers have "...been able to retain all the workers they need with minimal wage increase, or even with wage cuts..." (emphasis added)

The Highest Productivity at the Lowest Possible Wage equals Maximum Profit. When the supply of labor (that's us) exceeds demand, the price of labor (wages) falls because too many of us are competing for too few jobs. This is the reason for minimum wages, maximum hours, and the elimination of child labor. The fewer workers there are, the higher the wage. **But with the globalization of work, transnational corporations have the entire workforce of the world to choose from, and some of the most desperately poor people on earth to employ/exploit.**

In Bangladesh, a garment worker makes 22 cents an hour. The wage in Cambodia is 33 cents an hour; in Pakistan, 37 cents an hour; in Vietnam, 38 cents; in Sri Lanka, 43 cents; Indonesia, 44 cents; India, 55 cents; China, 86 cents; the Philippines, \$1.07; and Malaysia, \$1.18. This is the marketplace for labor in which we must compete. (40)

Why would a US transnational corporation pay you minimum wage, approximately \$7.25 an hour, when they can get the same work for from six to 35 times cheaper, leave the ownership and maintenance of the production facility to an overseas subcontractor, ship the manufactured goods into the US with no tariff imposed, and keep the profits offshore to avoid paying income tax? The only way it would be profitable for that transnational corporation to hire you is if you "agreed" to work for less. Could you live on less than 22 cents an hour? Do I have to ask?

"It is in the interest of a tyrant to keep his people poor, so that they may not be able to afford the cost of protecting themselves by arms and be so occupied with their daily tasks (subsistence) that they have no time for rebellion." - Aristotle

"There are two ways to enslave a nation. One is by the sword. The other is by debt." - John Adams

Notes

- (1) Tom Eley, "America, the land of inequality," wsws, 2/13/10
- (2) David Michael Green, "America's Race to the Bottom," The Smirking Chimp, 12/12/09
- (3) Too Much, 12/12/09
- (4) David Michael Green, *ibid.*
- (5) Vlad Grinkevich, "Forbes: Crisis Hits Only Low Income Earners," RIA Novosti, 3/12/10
- (6) Economic Policy Institute
- (7) Prof. Michael Hudson, "Wall Street's War against Main Street America," Global Research, 2/17/10
- (8) Steve Fraser, "The Great Silence. Our Gilded Age and Theirs," Tom's Dispatch, 4/22/08
- (9) Zenithoptimedia
- (10) money.cnn.com, 2/12/10
- (11) Andrea Shalal-Esa, "FACTBOX - How many lobbyists are there in Washington?" REUTERS, 9/13/09
- (12) Emily Spence, "The Widening Gap in America's Two-tiered Society," Smirking Chimp, 8/24/09
- (13) Robert Parry, "Lessons from America's Lost Decade," Consortium News, 1/5/10
- (14) Joe Kishore, "White House projects long-term mass unemployment," wsws, 2/13/10
- (15) Joe Klein, "This Is Getting Good," Time, 3/2/10
- (16) Tanya Ganeva, "Compassionate Conservative Tom Delay: People Don't Have Jobs Because They're Too Lazy to

Work," Speakeasy, 3/7/10

(17) Statistics, Tom Eley, "A Portrait of Social Misery," wsws, 1/7/10

(18) Olga Pierce, PRO PUBLICA, 1/20/10

(19) Ted Rall, "The Craziest Tax: Lost Your Job? The IRS Thinks You're Loaded," Smirking Chimp, 1/10/10

(20) Jerry White, "Six million in US with no income but food stamps," wsws, 1/7/10

(21) Kristen Downey, "U.S. Drops Report on Mass Layoffs: Data Helped States Track Patterns of Industrial Demise," Washington Post, 11/2/03

(22) Alec MacGillis, "Obama Administration Plans to Close International Labor Comparisons Office Washington Post, 3/3/10

(23) David Sirota, "Obama Adopts Bush Plan to Hide Outsourced Job Data," Open Left, 3/4/10

(24) Realty Trac

(25) Moody's Economy.com

(26) Jack Rasmus, "Economic Crisis and beyond," Z Magazine, Jan 2010

(27) Chris McGreal "Detroit homes sell for \$1.00 amid mortgage and car industry crisis," guardian.co.uk, 3/2/10

(28) Douglas McIntyre, "Underwater Mortgages Hit 11.3 Million," 247wallstreet.com, 2/23/10

(29) Christine Douglas, "More consumers file for bankruptcy protection," USA TODAY, 3/2/10

(30) American Bankruptcy Institute

(31) Christine Douglas, ibid.

(32) Christine Douglas, ibid.

(33) Tom Eley, "Record demand for heating assistance in US," wsws 2/24/10

(34) Jerry White, "White House defends inaction on jobs crisis as unemployment grows," wsws, 10/13/09

(35) Prof. Michael Hudson, "Deepening Debt Crisis: The Bernanke Reappointment: Be Afraid, Very Afraid," Center for Global Research, 2/2/10

(36) Caleb T. Maupin, "Working Peoples' Blood for Sale - Prices Lower Than Ever," Workers World 1/19/10

(37) Mark Ames "Cerberus Capital: Literally Blood-Sucking the Poor to Make Their Billions", Smirking Chimp, 1/9/10

(38) Joe Bageant, "To the Hope and Change Crowd - How's It Working Out for You?" JoeBageant.com, 12/9/09

(39) Paul Craig Roberts, "American Economy: R.I.P." Information Clearing House, 9/10/07

(40) Wimal Perera, "Bangladesh: Factory fire kills 21 garment workers," wsws, 3/14/10

Vi Ransel is a retired writer of Elementary Educational Materials and Corporate Communications She can be reached at rosiesretrocycle@yahoo.com.

Global Research [Articles](#) by Vi Ransel

Global Research [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:22 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Paul Craig Roberts: Good-bye

Good-bye. Truth Has Fallen and Has Taken Liberty With It

by Paul Craig Roberts [article link](#)

March 24, 2010

During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act. -George Orwell

There was a time when the pen was mightier than the sword. That was a time when people believed in truth and regarded truth as an independent power and not as an auxiliary for government, class, race, ideological, personal, or financial interest.

Today Americans are ruled by propaganda. Americans have little regard for truth, little access to it, and little ability to recognize it.

Truth is an unwelcome entity. It is disturbing. It is off limits. Those who speak it run the risk of being branded "anti-American," "anti-semitic" or "conspiracy theorist."

Truth is an inconvenience for government and for the interest groups whose campaign contributions control government.

Truth is an inconvenience for prosecutors who want convictions, not the discovery of innocence or guilt.

Truth is inconvenient for ideologues.

Today many whose goal once was the discovery of truth are now paid handsomely to hide it. "Free market economists" are paid to sell offshoring to the American people. High-productivity, high value-added American jobs are denigrated as dirty, old industrial jobs. Relicts from long ago, we are best shed of them. Their place has been taken by "the New Economy," a mythical economy that allegedly consists of high-tech white collar jobs in which Americans innovate and finance activities that occur offshore. All Americans need in order to participate in this "new economy" are finance degrees from Ivy League universities, and then they will work on Wall Street at million dollar jobs.

Economists who were once respectable took money to contribute to this myth of "the New Economy."

And not only economists sell their souls for filthy lucre. Recently we have had reports of medical doctors who, for money, have published in peer-reviewed journals concocted "studies" that hype this or that new medicine produced by pharmaceutical companies that paid for the "studies."

The Council of Europe is investigating big pharma's role in hyping a false swine flu pandemic in order to gain billions of dollars in sales of the vaccine.

The media helped the US military hype its recent Marja offensive in Afghanistan, describing Marja as a city of 80,000 under Taliban control. It turns out that Marja is not urban but a collection of village farms.

And there is the global warming scandal, in which climate scientists, financed by Wall Street and corporations anxious to get their mitts on "cap and trade" and by a U.N. agency anxious to redistribute income from rich to poor countries, concocted a doomsday scenario in order to create profit in pollution.

Wherever one looks, truth has fallen to money.

Wherever money is insufficient to bury the truth, ignorance, propaganda, and short memories finish the job.

I remember when, following CIA director William Colby's testimony before the Church Committee in the mid-1970s, presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan issued executive orders preventing the CIA and U.S. black-op groups from assassinating foreign leaders. In 2010 the US Congress was told by Dennis Blair, head of national intelligence, that the US now assassinates its own citizens in addition to foreign leaders.

When Blair told the House Intelligence Committee that US citizens no longer needed to be arrested, charged, tried, and convicted of a capital crime, just murdered on suspicion alone of being a "threat," he wasn't impeached. No investigation pursued. Nothing happened. There was no Church Committee. In the mid-1970s the CIA got into trouble for plots to kill Castro. Today it is American citizens who are on the hit list. Whatever objections there might be don't carry any weight. No one in government is in any trouble over the assassination of U.S. citizens by the U.S. government.

As an economist, I am astonished that the American economics profession has no awareness whatsoever that the U.S. economy has been destroyed by the offshoring of U.S. GDP to overseas countries. U.S. corporations, in pursuit of absolute advantage or lowest labor costs and maximum CEO "performance bonuses," have moved the production of goods and services marketed to Americans to China, India, and elsewhere abroad. When I read economists describe offshoring as free trade based on comparative advantage, I realize that there is no intelligence or integrity in the American economics profession.

Intelligence and integrity have been purchased by money. The transnational or global U.S. corporations pay multi-million dollar compensation packages to top managers, who achieve these "performance awards" by replacing U.S. labor with foreign labor. **While Washington worries about "the Muslim threat," Wall Street, U.S. corporations and "free market" shills destroy the U.S. economy and the prospects of tens of millions of Americans.**

Americans, or most of them, have proved to be putty in the hands of the police state.

Americans have bought into the government's claim that security requires the suspension of civil liberties and accountable government. Astonishingly, Americans, or most of them, believe that civil liberties, such as habeas corpus and due process, protect "terrorists," and not themselves. Many also believe that the Constitution is a tired old document that prevents government from exercising the kind of police state powers necessary to keep Americans safe and free.

Most Americans are unlikely to hear from anyone who would tell them any different.

I was associate editor and columnist for the Wall Street Journal. I was Business Week's first outside columnist, a position I held for 15 years. I was columnist for a decade for Scripps Howard News Service, carried in 300 newspapers. I was a columnist for the Washington Times and for newspapers in France and Italy and for a magazine in Germany. I was a contributor to the New York Times and a regular feature in the Los Angeles Times. **Today I cannot publish in, or appear on, the American "mainstream media."**

For the last six years I have been banned from the "mainstream media." My last column in the New York Times appeared in January, 2004, coauthored with Democratic U.S. Senator Charles Schumer representing New York. We addressed the offshoring of U.S. jobs. Our op-ed article produced a conference at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. and live coverage by C-Span. A debate was launched. No such thing could happen today.

For years I was a mainstay at the Washington Times, producing credibility for the Moony newspaper as a Business Week columnist, former Wall Street Journal editor, and former Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Treasury. But when I began criticizing Bush's wars of aggression, the order came down to Mary Lou Forbes to cancel my column.

The American media does not serve the truth. It serves the government and the interest groups that empower the government.

America's fate was sealed when the public and the anti-war movement bought the government's 9/11 conspiracy theory. The government's account of 9/11 is contradicted by much evidence. Nevertheless, this defining event of our time, which has launched the U.S. on interminable wars of aggression and a domestic police state, is a taboo topic for investigation in the media. **It is pointless to complain of war and a police state when one accepts the premise upon which they are based.**

These trillion dollar wars have created financing problems for Washington's deficits and threaten the U.S. dollar's role as world reserve currency. The wars and the pressure that the budget deficits put on the dollar's value have put Social Security and Medicare on the chopping block. Former Goldman Sachs chairman and U.S. Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson is after these protections for the elderly. Fed chairman Bernanke is also after them. The Republicans are after them as well. These protections are called "entitlements" as if they are some sort of welfare that people have not paid for in payroll taxes all their working lives.

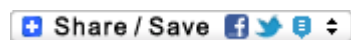
With over 21 percent unemployment as measured by the methodology of 1980, with American jobs, GDP, and technology having been given to China and India, with war being Washington's greatest commitment, with the dollar over-burdened with debt, with civil liberty sacrificed to the "war on terror," the liberty and prosperity of the American people have been thrown into the trash bin of history.

The militarism of the U.S. and Israeli states, and Wall Street and corporate greed, will now run their course. As the pen is censored and its might extinguished, I am signing off.

End

© 2010 OpEdNews.com All rights reserved.

OpEdNews [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:24 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Brunwasser/Levine: A Broken People?

Are Americans Too Broken by Corporate Power to Resist?

By Joan Brunwasser and Bruce E. Levine, OpEdNews.com [article link](#)

Posted on March 23, 2010, Printed on March 24, 2010

Editor's Note: The following is the transcript of a recent interview with Bruce E. Levine by OpEd News' Joan Brunwasser. Levine is a clinical psychologist and author of [Surviving America's Depression Epidemic: How to Find Morale, Energy, and Community in a World Gone Crazy](#) (Chelsea Green Publishing, 2007).

Joan Brunwasser: Back in December, you wrote 'Are Americans a Broken People? Why We've Stopped Fighting Back Against the Forces of Oppression.' Could you tell our readers about your theory?

Bruce E. Levine: **There are times when human beings can become so broken that truths of how they are being victimized do not set them free.** This is certainly the case for many victims of parental and spousal abuse. They are not helped by people explaining to them that they are being battered, exploited, uncared about and disrespected. They know it already and somebody pointing it out is not helpful.

So, it seems to me that it is also possible that human beings can become so broken by the abuse of the corporate elite that they also are no longer set free by truth.

While certainly the corporate-controlled mainstream media does not report many important truths, the majority of the American people do know enough to oppose the war in Afghanistan, but they do almost nothing in response to recent troop surges.

Polls show that the majority of Americans actually support single-payer, Medicare-for all plan and even a larger majority support a public option, yet there are relatively few people on the streets protesting the Democratic party betrayal of them.

And look at the 2000 U.S. "banana-republic" presidential election, in which Gore beat Bush by 500,000 votes and the Supreme Court stopped the Florida recount, and 51 million Gore voters were disenfranchised. Yes, there were small protest demonstrations against this election farce, but the numbers of protesters were so small that they empowered rather than concerned the future Bush administration, which went on to almost vaunt its regime of anti-democracy and piss on basic human rights. How humiliating for an entire nation. The shame many Americans feel, at some level, for allowing torture and other abuses is similar to the shame that spousal abuse victims feel -- and this routinely makes people feel even weaker. So, while not all Americans are broken, demoralized and feeling powerless, many are.

I wish the answer to restoring democracy was simply one of people getting more journalistic truths through a non-corporate media --and certainly I am all for that -- but I think that much more is required. **We need to take a look at what forces in American society are breaking the American people from the ability to resist tyranny and dehumanization, and we must start considering what are the antidotes to this.** At least that's what any psychologist or social scientist who gives a damn about genuine democracy should be doing.

JB: So, our feelings of powerlessness are rooted in modern life, exacerbated by present political realities. I'd like to point out another factor, which is what Paul Rogat Loeb refers to as our 'historic amnesia.' Historian and social activist **Howard Zinn** spent decades trying to offset that amnesia by providing an alternate history of our country, emphasizing various movements that have spanned decades (or generations) and eventually brought about change. He told stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things and his book, **A People's History of the United States** has sold two million copies. So, it's obviously struck a chord. What do you think about the power of stories as an antidote to the ennui you describe?

BL: Stories of resistance to tyranny are great for the morale, so Howard Zinn did a great service by popularizing historical examples. These can be inspirational. A broken person and a broken people need morale. Inspirational models whom people can identify with can be energizing, and energy is exactly what demoralized people need.

It is important for people to know that, yes, there are historical examples of people rebelling against the elite. It is important, for example, for us to know that there once was something called the People's Party in the U.S. and a huge populist revolt that scared the hell out of the elite in the 1880s and 1890s.

But historical truths are not enough because sometimes people say, "That's just history, now is different, rebellion isn't possible." That's why not only historians need to report rebellions but journalists must report current resistance to the ruling elite corporations and their political lackeys, current resistance to this "corpocracy."

Bill Moyers has done a good job reporting on current resisters. I have seen a couple of examples on his recent shows. One is **Steve Meachum** and his group **City Life**, which has successfully kept people from being thrown out of their homes in foreclosure. Another example is pediatrician **Margaret Flowers**, a member of **Physicians for a National Health Program**, jailed for the cause of single-payer/Medicare for all.

JB: Good examples. I interviewed Dr. Flowers last May, shortly after she was released from jail.

BL: Historical examples and current examples of resistance against the corporacy can be inspiring, energizing and morale-boosting.

The elite know that to win the class war, just like winning any war, the goal is to crush the spirit of resistance of your opponent. So if you want to win the class war, you must care about the morale of your class.

Remember the "Tank Man" in China? While it is important for the people in China to know all the ways that they are being victimized, the problem is if they are completely terrified of their authoritarian government and too broken to resist, what's the good of knowing more and more about how they are being victimized? So, that one image of the guy getting out in front of the tank -- "the Tank Man" -- is hugely important.

I can tell you for sure that what I need is more models and fewer lectures. My sense is that is what many of us need.

JB: Your comment points to one of the big problems we Americans face. **The corporate media is often part of the problem, rather than performing its historic 'watchdog' function.** That's difficult to overcome, especially when so many exclusively read and listen to that right-wing echo chamber. Wasn't it Hitler's propaganda minister who said that all you have to do is repeat a lie 1,000 times and it becomes true? Those of us trying to practice responsible journalism online are fighting an uphill battle. Any recommendations?

BL: It's only going to make genuine journalists feel more powerless and broken if they focus on the ability of the corporate media to pound the airwaves with bullshit. The good news is that with all the money and power behind them, not all that many people take the corporate media seriously.

Of course, people don't get how impotent the corporate media is if they just watch the corporate media. But the polls show that, despite all their propaganda, the American people know that big business, the Democrats, the Republicans and the corporate media are all special-interest groups that work together for their own interest and not for the people.

I'm not going to worry about people like NBC's Brian Williams who spends a good part of his life appearing on every program possible to get his face and name out there. Williams makes it as clear as possible to anybody with half of a brain that what he's desperate for is publicity -- not truth.

So the corporate media now even recognizes how bored people are by their boring bullshit. However, instead of trying to excite people with truths, they are now trying to ape Jon Stewart. But their apes are not witty or funny and not reporting any truths, even the obvious ones that Stewart points out. ... So what are my recommendations to real journalists who actually give a damn about getting the truth out there and about having an impact?

Two things come immediately to mind. First, when you are preaching to the choir, when you are writing for a publication that is read by an audience that already has been radicalized one must think, "Is my piece going to simply depress them with one more truth of oppression and injustice? Or, is my piece going to stimulate some action in at least one reader, and hopefully more?"

I have written for publications such as [Z Magazine](#), [AlterNet](#), [CounterPunch](#), [Adbusters](#) and [The Ecologist](#), for readers who are already radicalized. I used to feel satisfied with informing readers about yet another industrial complex that I knew well, specifically, the psycho-pharmaceutical industrial complex. But now I think that's not enough. **When one has an opportunity to write to people who are already aware of how they are being screwed by an oligarchy of industrial complexes, I believe it is one's responsibility to write in a way that galvanizes them to get off their asses and do something constructive.**

Much of schooling teaches people that it is good enough to simply know the truth and care about injustices. But it's not enough to know and care if that concern is passive. Jonathan Kozol, the school critic, used the phrase "**inert concern**" to characterize what he was taught in his elitist schooling at a fancy prep school and later at Harvard. Kozol mocks "inert concern," and so do I.

Good journalism is going to energize people to take action. One way is, as we've already talked about, giving people inspiring models.

A second thing that journalists must do is to get creative in figuring out ways of expanding their audience rather than simply preaching to the choir. People who feel defeated, demoralized and broken want to be energized. This means it is not enough to report the truth -- one needs to write in a way that is fun to read. Molly Ivins got it. Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert get it. Gore Vidal has always gotten it.

Michael Pollan is an interesting example of somebody who has been able to expand the audience of people who get it about the food industry. I remember reading Pollan when he was a relative unknown writing for Harper's about drug hypocrisy issues -- he was right on the money and damn near anarchistic. But Pollan is an entertaining guy who is fun to read and doesn't sound like some ideologue pushing counterpropaganda.

He's now going after the food-industrial complex. Pollan has been effective in making it quite mainstream to talk about some pretty radical stuff. I hear he is responsible for influencing Michelle Obama to have a vegetable garden. Now, having a vegetable garden and cooking your own food does not sound radical to people who get turned off by radicals, but there is no more radicalizing stuff than learning to become more self-reliant and independent of the food-industrial complex.

So, two solutions to your question involve expanding your audience and energizing people who already get it. If all journalists started to think about this and get creative, there would be a bunch more specific answers.

The real question for me is what can each of us do, at least each of us who gives a damn about genuine democracy and getting rid of the plutocracy we now have. What can journalists do? Psychologists? Teachers? Parents? Students? We need to try to think about this question strategically. Think about it creatively. We need to think about what can be energizing and fun and is thus sustainable.

JB: You're talking about advocacy journalism, aren't you?

BL: Let's take a look at this phrase "**advocacy journalism**." In reality, Brian Williams is advocating for the career of Brian Williams, and the New York Times is advocating for the New York Times. Neither is advocating all that much for the truth.

The Times would like us to believe that it is not advocating any political ideology, but in reality, it's advocating for readers to take the entire institutional establishment seriously. Times writer Judith Miller took establishment sources seriously about WMD in Iraq, and this greased the wheels of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. The Times would have us believe that Miller and WMD were an anomaly. Not true.

When the Times reports that the Food and Drug Administration has approved a new drug, the Times almost never reports that the FDA did not do independent tests but trusted drug company data -- this is normal procedure. And the Times does not report in any drug approval story that there is a revolving door of employment between the FDA and drug companies -- this is the reality.

Advocating for the truth would mean reporting facts that question the credibility of institutions, especially ones such as the FDA with its history of getting it wrong so much of the time. The FDA example is only one of many. The New York Times is a major institution that benefits from the status quo being taken seriously. The Times keeps itself from being attacked by other major institutions by what the Times omits about these other major institutions.

Pretend neutrality and lies of omission insult the public. Genuine democracy needs people, including journalists, mixing it up honestly. So, journalists need to report the facts because they will not be taken seriously if they get the facts wrong. And journalists need to report facts that may be troubling for their position because that will gain a journalist even more credibility and power. But readers know that journalists are people who have a point of view, so journalists shouldn't pretend that they don't have one and then slant a story.

When New York Times apologists accuse **Amy Goodman** and "[Democracy Now!](#)" of advocacy journalism, I have to laugh. The Times is advocating taking the status quo and major institutions seriously, and "Democracy Now!" is advocating against that. The Times puts a lot of effort into not being transparent about its kind of advocacy, while "Democracy Now!" doesn't waste its time on such pretend efforts.

JB: Before we close, let's shift gears for a moment. Have you found that your clinical practice has changed over the last number of years, with patients feeling more overwhelmed and powerless than before?

BL: I see more powerlessness with teenagers and young adults now than I saw 20 years ago. Many extremely smart but nonacademic high school students who hate school have been told that they must go to college or they will never be able to make a living, and at the same time they know that increases in college tuition result in outrageous debt, and with increasingly crappy jobs out there, this debt will be difficult to pay off. And of course debt breaks people.

There remain young people who have not had their spirit of resistance against the corpocracy crushed out of them, and I ask them, "How many of your peers are aware of and rebelling against the reality that they are being turned into indentured servants and slaves?" They tell me practically none of their peers are resisting, at least constructively, as they feel too powerless to do anything but lots of alcohol, illegal and psychiatric prescription drugs to kill the pain of their hopelessness. **I don't see a hell of lot of kids protesting about how they are getting screwed, and that tells me something.**

Joan Brunwasser is a co-founder of [Citizens for Election Reform \(CER\)](#). Bruce E. Levine is a clinical psychologist whose latest book is [Surviving America's Depression Epidemic: How to Find Morale, Energy, and Community in a World Gone Crazy](#) (Chelsea Green Publishing, 2007). His Web site is www.brucelevine.net

© 2010 OpEdNews.com All rights reserved.

OpEdNews [home page](#)

AlterNet [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:59 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

[Siv O'Neill: Money is God, Greed is King and Corruption Runs the Game](#)

Money is God, Greed is King and Corruption Runs the Game

By Siv O'Neill [article link](#)

Aug 15, 2009 Axis of Logic

Never has the world been subjected to as pure and destructive lunacy as at this time in history. Never have the anti-civilization voices been heard as stridently as in the so-called debate that is going on today. The insane and desperate noise of the single-party political scene in the United States, the deafening roar of the Mafia, is threatening, and seemingly managing quite well, to out-thunder the few reasonable and civilized voices that are attempting to be heard over the din.

The civilized debate that might be expected to be going on about health care, tax reforms, regulation of financial speculation, the criminality of imperial wars, improving education and much more, is poisoned while still in the womb, by the formidable power of the one political party that is spelled M O N E Y. Their power tools are the mass media, the ceaseless propaganda machines, the formidable use of hypnotic slogans and, added to that, the severe lack of insight and intellectual curiosity of the U.S. citizens. All this is made possible through the obscene lowering of educational standards and the carefully programmed lack of information that is the normal state of things today in Middle America.

One of the most obvious and insidious weapons of the Money Party is the use of the word socialism. U.S citizens have been thoroughly brainwashed to a state of visceral fear of socialism as the great demon that is out to destroy everything that is decent in life, keep us from having any form of an individual choice as to how to live out lives. It is a decadent form of government that Europeans are victims of, where the spirit of free enterprise is deadened by too much welfare protection, where the rich have to take care of the poor who can thus go on idling their lives away in apathy and shameless dependence on the government.

While U.S citizens are either working themselves to death or being spiritually stifled by joblessness and the lack of hope for a better future, they still seem to believe that the U.S. is the greatest democracy in the world, the only really free country

where everybody has the right of vote, has the possibility of climbing up the rungs on the social ladder, has the right to an excellent education, the right to free speech, 'the good life' in a country with a strictly limited role of the government.

The United States is supposedly in the political, military and cultural forefront all over the world and has the right to interfere wherever its authority is questioned or threatened. The terrifying lack of insight of U.S. citizens into the various passions and ambitions that make up the foundation for a meaningful life for all people in all nations and civilizations completely derails any potential of understanding how the world is made up. What drives us human beings to productiveness and to a feeling of comfort and satisfaction in our own capacity of leaving a positive imprint on the world around us? 'Go out and buy' say the American Money men. Give everybody a realistic chance to try his own motors, say I, and help him pull himself out of the quicksand if he fails in his efforts, due to lack of encouragement and lack of initial means of support.

The Money Party has led a centuries-long effort at deadening any humane impulse, stifling any creative and imaginative attempt to use leisure time in a constructive way, replacing all that would be of true value by inventing phony needs of accumulating wealth and symbols of status. With the effect that people are now generally convinced that money is value in itself, an end rather than a means.

The world is becoming an amoral and totally disjointed arena where insanity and unlimited greed rule and no humane principles can survive the attacks of the all powerful Money Party.

The poor are not supposed to survive, the old and sick have no more rights to a decent life. The words in the ongoing and stumbling efforts to create healthcare for all are being so completely distorted that the average American is made to believe propaganda phrases that no decent human being could possibly have intended. But the average person does believe it. **The hate-mongers on television have a credulous audience. It is really so simple. Socialism is the clue. Just tell people again and again, ever since McCarthyism held sway over fears and sanity, that socialism is the Devil. Make all those fundamentalists believe that anything that resembles a welfare net is a product of the anti-Christ and reason matters no more. Reason is burned at the stake. Mass hysteria takes over, leading to generalized insanity.**

The men and women with a callousness that makes your blood run cold take the lead in inventing slogans – they are out to kill your grandparents, government bureaucracy will squash healthcare efficiency, you will die before your turn comes to get medical treatment. Public healthcare will cause national bankruptcy and taxes will go through the ceiling. **Blatant lies are repeated again and again until a hypnotic phenomenon has converted them into truths to ignorant 'Americans'. Government-run healthcare equals socialism – the Devil himself.**

And the insane healthcare debate, if that is what it can be called, is far from being the only issue where reason has gone astray and nationalistic hubris and blindness have taken over.

'America' is the foremost, 'America' is the moral guardian of the world, 'America' is the only civilized nation, the only true democracy, are slogans that are so widely believed that no realistic arguments, no criminal wars, no senseless killing of innocent people, no perfectly visible crimes against citizens' rights and screaming social injustice can possibly change the stern belief of U.S. citizens that they are at the top of the world and that nothing can limit their rights to let loose their cluster bombs and their mad destruction wherever and whenever they are told that there is a reason for U.S. intervention.

U.S. citizens are never taught to reason, to disagree, to doubt. The average American wears blinders so impenetrable that he can't possibly see the world the way it is. 'Truth' is a malleable piece of clay that is made up for him and he swallows it hook, line and sinker.

Civilization is dying. The very notion of civilization is dead. Money has taken over. Money has been the heir apparent for centuries and in the Empire's frantic reaching out of its tentacles over the rest of the world, it has already managed to convert a majority of the Western world, and more, to the belief that the Free Market is the solution to global well-being. As all people with open eyes know and see, the Free Market was set up in order to get rid of the poor and to enable the Money wizards to rule with virtually no opposition. The fact that the planet is destroyed in the

process seems to be of no importance to these lunatics. Maximizing profit is the only real goal and people and the planet be damned. **The Free Market juggernaut crushes everything in its way. That's what it was invented for and fascism is the name of the game.** It is worse than any previous fascist regime since it has more power and practically no opposition, since the lawlessness is mostly hidden behind a screen of secrecy and lies.

The only hope for humanity today is in the form of socialism that is growing in Latin America, in spite of the violent resistance and frequent sabotage from the U.S. governments. This enormously important phenomenon is what sends chills along the spines of U.S. politicians and the Money men all over the Western world.

Siv O'Neill is an Axis of Logic columnist, based in France. Her insightful essays are republished and read worldwide. She can be reached at siv@axisoflogic.com. Read her Biography and more of her articles on Axis of Logic

Read her Biography and more of [articles](#) by Siv O'Neill on Axis of Logic.

Axis of Logic Civic Revolution [articles](#)

Axis of Logic [front page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:51 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Monday, March 22, 2010

[Siv O'Neill: Capitalism Is Dying a Natural Death](#)

Global Empire

Capitalism Is Dying a Natural Death

By Siv O'Neill [article link](#)

Monday, Mar 15, 2010 Axis of Logic

The curtain is going down on the lone-superpower world we know and it is now a most urgent question if and when and how forces for true democracy, human rights, peace and civilization can come out and dissipate the cloud that has spread over what was once an almost decent way of life.

The long-time descent into totalitarian capitalism and neglect for anything but corporate profit has just about finished its course. The party is over. Bankruptcy is next. What we don't know yet is how far-reaching this economic freefall is going to be.

Predecessors such as the German Reich are brought to mind, but the similarities are far from parallel. The inhumanity is on the same scale but the hypocrisy is even worse than in the Nazi era. **Hypocrisy rules the world. No slogans the rulers of the United States or the rest of the Western world pronounce as their ideologies and goals can be taken for their face value.** Lies are the only things that come out of the mouths of our so-called leaders and that is the way they have set up the sordid game to their own advantage.

We the people are not supposed to be aware of how we are being treated like dregs to be discarded. The powers that be imagine that, as long as we are not told the truth about how we are being cheated out of our birth rights, we will lie down like whipped dogs and lick the feet of our torturers.

How far we have come from the somewhat civilized society that the Founding Fathers had in mind for the people of the thirteen states can only be measured if we consider the abysmal lack of basic needs and basic rights that is now the norm in the United States. In fact, there are no areas left in the year 2010 that have been spared from the general decline, cultural, economic or humane. **Human rights are in tatters, the standard of living for the vast majority of American families can go nowhere but further downhill, the voices of the people are left unheard, the standard of cultural institutions, quality education and all the privileges that are linked to it are being starved out of existence.**

The prostitutes of the right-wing media are making the utmost possible din so as to effectively drown the voices of reason. **The general sluggishness of people is being enhanced by the non-stop propaganda fed them through the mass media, the fake view of the world** as a place where satisfaction can only be had from over-consumption and from participating in the violence that is constantly displayed to us as a model of life via these mass media, the artificial uppers and downers that are offered to us by the entertainment industry to fill in the void of our souls.

The environment is being plundered savagely with no concern whatsoever for the survival of mankind, the survival of the planet and all its millions of different species. Biodiversity is a forgotten concept, except for the rare rebels who go against the stream and try to make their life-saving voices heard over the din of the machines of the killer corporations. Those predators are clearly only out to maximize their profits without the slightest concern for the catastrophic effects on the environment.

The majority of people never see what the real world is all about. How can they? The distorted ‘values’ that money can buy are the only ones that are real to them.

A sunrise over the ocean, a maple leaf swirling in clear spring water, the little hand touching your cheek, the beauty of words coming from a writer’s soul – what happened to the marvels of life? What happened to the real world?

So how did this Ersatz world come about?

Capitalism, the way it is playing out today, is incompatible with true democracy. **This insanity, this absurd form of capitalism is altogether negating a humane system of running the world with any consideration at all for the people on the planet.**

Free Market capitalism, the Chicago School of Economics professor, Milton Friedman’s brainchild[1], globalization, the catchword for the Empire’s total domination over the rest of the world, Washington’s New World Order, enriching the very few and strangling the masses – call it what you like but it’s a fantasy that is now finally crumbling. It all amounts to ‘screw the people’ and ‘greed is the power that makes the world go round’. **The religion in the U.S.A. is greed and it’s the only true religion there is.**

However, the giant is crumbling. A fast-spreading gangrene is eating away at the interior of the nation, its elite-oriented and half-starved educational system, its sad excuse for a working healthcare system, its decaying infrastructure. **The very souls of the people are withering away, as their jobs are lost, their homes are foreclosed, their constitutional freedoms no longer respected, civil rights being increasingly downplayed by the police and federal authorities.**

All this is adding to and interacting with the economic meltdown and the destruction of the environment, which at this point doesn’t even guarantee a livable future for the coming generations.

A multi-lateral world can not be stopped, as the giant is playing out its last trumps – in case it has any left. Emerging countries are becoming emerged countries. There have not been many signs of awareness of this evolution of the geopolitical reality from President Obama, but rather a continuation of the Neocon imperialism, which will, if allowed a free rein, lead the planet to disaster. **It will render the environment unlivable and thus destroy the way of life of the billions of people all over the world. With the environment in ruins, there is just no way back.** The corporations whose greed is responsible for the current situation do not seem to realize or care about the direction in which they are steering our planet.

The Free Market was set up with unilateral power for the giant in the West and unheard of wealth for the very few as its unique goal. The tools would be the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, which were working on the single track of stealing the national resources of the greatest number of countries possible and squeezing money out of financially strapped nations by lending their governments money at a high interest rate. The ultimate condition for the nations in dire economic straits, was always the cutting back on social services, devaluing the national currency and increasing taxes on the already half-strangled people, thus starving the beast. Such is the ever-present major strategy of

these Washington henchmen; the super-tools for U.S. world domination. And, of course, along came the accumulation of further wealth to add to the already astronomic wealth of the corporations. Madness! To what end?

Countries which had previously enjoyed a fairly good standard of living, but had gotten squeezed by the Free Market economy, free trade agreements, such as NAFTA, CAFTA, FTAA[2] and bilateral agreements, saw their relatively comfortable lives wither away, such as many Asian nations in the nineties during the Asian financial crisis[3]. Poor 3rd World nations were suddenly rendered more impoverished than ever before, having their national resources taken over by the multinational hydras. **Wherever the heavy boots of the IMF and the World Bank get a foothold in a financially troubled nation, they manage to suck the blood out of the nation's resources and their financial independence.**

Free-market capitalism can not possibly go along with true democracy. The concepts represent opposite poles in the running of the economic systems of the world. The most outstanding mark of run-away capitalism is its denial of any civic and human rights to the working people. Privatization, which is the principal gospel of this decadent world order will eventually make us pay for the air we breathe and the polluted water we drink.

If national elections are allowed to survive in order to make for a semblance of democracy, it is only because they have no real meaning the way they are run today. They constitute no real danger to the system that is running the world since they are strictly controlled by corporations that are hand in glove with the imperialists. They are part of the system.

And yet, a majority of U.S. citizens are under the impression that their votes count for something in the running of internal and external politics. They seem to be slowly waking up, however, to the fact that their opposition to the ongoing wars and the tax cuts for the wealthy count for nothing.

The creation of the lone superpower

At the end of World War II, with Europe exhausted and virtually powerless as a commercial partner, the U.S government saw clearly that they would have to shore up the war-damaged European countries in order to create a market place for their newfound wealth. The Great Depression was over at last thanks to the boost to the economy that the war had brought to the nation. **Now the U.S. needed commercial partners. So the Marshall Plan was born.** Later on came the Hollywood Superman Ronald Reagan and as his megalomaniac and expansionist plans for the country were set in motion, the kernel of the Neoconservative movement was simultaneously taking shape.

During all this time a handy bogeyman was created in the Communist fiend. From the McCarthy era in the fifties to the Kennedy fiasco of the Bay of Pigs attempt to invade Southern Cuba in 1961, to the horror of the Vietnam war, to the criminal meddling in various Central American and Latin American countries, it was always the Communist threat that served as a pretext for invasions of countries that stood in the way for U.S. power and expansionism. Those countries that could not be bought up or propagandized into cooperating with the Empire were simply invaded and taken over. A blaring exception was of course the great embarrassment of the Vietnam War, when no country was ever taken over. But that didn't even teach the imperialists a lesson. The people, yes, but the psychotic neocons, no. If anything, the lesson drawn by the neocons from that insane war was on the contrary that the U.S. had to show the world that it was still the Lord of the planet, including outer space.

Invade, crush, kill and take over national resources was the trademark of U.S. foreign policies. Until the Soviet Union imploded and the vastly overblown propaganda about the giant in the east that was threatening to end the supremacy of the number one superpower finally became open for all to see. Ever since the end of World War II, with a powerful boost given to it by the Kennedy brothers, the Communist scare has been hovering over the Western world, based on a minimum of reality but above all hysterical propaganda. It was the octopus that was spreading its tentacles all over the world. If the Soviet military power was in fact impressive, it was because they put all their rubles into the arms industry and neglected the well-being of their people.

Fear and eternal war are the capitalist tools

When the Soviet Union disintegrated, the U.S. suddenly found itself bereft of a handy target to blame the evils of the world on. **A new enemy had to be created and we all know how the ‘War on Terror’ came about, based on the absurd theory, touted hysterically, that the Muslims were now all set to take over the Western world.** Al Qaeda may well have been a creation by Washington but, as could be expected, it then became a reality[4]. **Continuous war is of the essence to a superpower to sustain the fear that is necessary to keep the people in blinders. Hysteria and ignorance are the sine qua non for an eternal war.** Non-stop propaganda is also a major tool without which the slogan ‘Pax Americana’ would have been a laughing stock from its very creation. And of course the mass media played the game since they were being paid to do so.

Fear was the tool that was needed in order to fool the people of the world and draw a veil of emotional blindness over their minds. What made the creation of this visceral fear and anger at all possible was of course the attack on the World Trade Center and the following 9/11 hysteria. Without this enormous propaganda tool, the major wars that have followed, the total contempt for U.S. citizens’ constitutional rights and the U.S. Constitution in general would have been just wishful thinking by the neocon thugs.

Of course we can’t know how much longer the ‘lone superpower’ is still going to be breathing. It is now on life support and we can only vaguely guess what the world is going to be like after the colossus stops breathing. No words of reconciliation to the rest of the world by President Obama will save the shipwreck that is the United States of America.

What arrogance, what hubris, to believe that the United States would be able to create the millenary Reich where all other nations would be willing allies, due to the propagandized ‘cultural, moral and military superiority’ of the Master behemoth. If not allies, they would become subdued and subservient because they would have lost their internal strength, as was the intention with Iraq, Afghanistan and probably now also with Pakistan. The Empire was going to appear so unbeatable that no other nation would ever be able to go against their formidable power. **They were to be God on earth and everybody who looked into the shining light of their claim to divine power was going to see that resistance would be useless.**

Wait a minute – haven’t we seen this before? It seems to be a lesson never learned that even an Empire is bound for a swift fall when the winds turn and the scales fall from the eyes of the people in the rest of the world. And, as is perfectly obvious, the hubris was not born with the Neocons plotting in the underground during the Reagan presidency. It goes all the way back to the cruel near wiping-out of the native American population. **Nobody can stand against the superpower. It is the bearer of God-given authority to rule the continent, to rule over war-torn Europe, to rule over the Americas, to rule over the resource-rich countries, to rule the world.**

The psychopaths who created this absurd fantasy should by all rights be the first victims of the downfall of the Empire. In the long row of history’s empires, has there ever been one that so misjudged the power of national pride and the firm decision by the invaded people to go on running their own nation, running their own lives on territories that had been theirs for millennia?

The world is changing however. We will find out one day if it is already too late or if there is still a chance that people and the environment might be saved.

Asia is organizing to become increasingly independent of the West. They are creating their own economic cooperation organizations, such as [AFTA](#) [5] (ASEAN Free Trade Area), born out of ASEAN, the ‘Association of Southeast Asian Nations’, a “geo-political and economic organization of ten countries located in Southeast Asia, which was formed on 8 August 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand”. This organization now includes ten countries located in Southeast Asia.[6]

The AFTA project was launched in 1993 with the objective of creating a Free Trade Area in eastern Asia. It undertook some bold measures during the Asian financial crisis in the nineties, which clearly showed up the need for mutual economic interdependence between Southeast and Northeast Asia.

In November 2001 an ambitious plan was submitted to create a regional bloc. It recommended that East Asia would move from a region of nations to a cohesive regional community where collective efforts would be made for peace, prosperity, and progress. They identified the following sectors for cooperation: economic, financial, security, environmental, social and cultural.[7]

China, the next superpower?

China's economy is the third-largest in the world and it is the biggest holder of U.S. Treasury bonds. It is the top owner of U.S. government debt and it is also one of the 'emerging nations' that can be said to have already emerged. It is now in a full-fledged position to become a superpower. **The day the United States of America declares bankruptcy, China will probably be ready to take over in conjunction with other developed nations.**

Right now, China is giving Obama the cold shoulder. It is a fact that trade with the U.S. has recently picked up, but basically China is economically so much ahead of the former superpower that they can well shrug their shoulders at the hypocritical demands that Washington puts forth. Who is to urge China to respect civil rights and to diminish pollution to save the environment? Or to convince China that there should be more equality of living conditions? Washington's hypocrisy knows no limits.

Obviously we can not be looking forward to a world where one inhuman superpower would be replaced by another one. We are not blind to the kind of life we would be living under Chinese rule. **But such a thought seems so far from realistic that the solution we have to look forward to as a new World Order would rather be a multi-lateral organization where no one power would have too much influence over the rest of the world.**

As for the other emerging nations, such as India and Brazil, they still have a way to go. A low quality of education, an average low standard of living, faulty healthcare, a sadly insufficient fight against pollution and contempt for human rights are among the major problems for these countries, as well as for China. However, the United States could well be pointed to as equally lacking in every one of these areas. **There is also a horrifying lack of equality in all these countries, but then again, the richest country of them all, the U.S. of A. shares the guilt of these only relatively wealthy countries.**

Latin America Is Gathering Strength

In another part of the world, there is Latin America that is currently fighting for its independence from the Empire. The birth of [Mercosur](#), the Common Market of the South, took place on March 26, 1991. Since its creation including Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay, Venezuela also joined on 17 June 2006. Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru currently have associate member status.

Panama and Mexico have also announced their intention to join Mercosur.

On the other hand, Venezuela has also initiated ALBA (a symbolic acronym since alba means dawn), Venezuel's answer to imperialist free trade agreements ('Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas' or 'Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América'), which, to begin with, comprised Venezuela and Cuba. Later, Bolivia, Ecuador and Nicaragua have joined the alliance. Some islands in the Caribbean are also members. Honduras became a member in August 2008, but, interestingly enough, after the coup in June 2009 to overthrow President Manuel Zelaya, its membership was withdrawn.

"On December 16, 2009, the Honduran congress met to withdraw the country from the ALBA, claiming a 'lack of respect' from Venezuela since the country's joining in 2008, citing in particular Hugo Chavez' remarks about a potential invasion of Honduras to restore Manuel Zelaya to office, after he was removed on 28 June 2009 in the 2009 Honduran coup d'état. Withdrawal from ALBA was ratified by the Honduran Congress on January 13, 2010. Economic relations with Venezuela continue, including via Petrocaribe."

Mercosur and ALBA are the Latin American answer to NAFTA, CAFTA and FTAA, the U.S.- sponsored so-called free trade agreements, which are for anything but free trade, constantly raising trade barriers against foreign nations for the profit of the United States.

Conclusion

The United States, the lone superpower is no more. The sooner the leaders realize this, the softer will be the fall when the giant finally breaks down. Barack Obama gave Europeans and many others some kind of hope for a change of path by the callous behemoth. But no such thing has happened and no such thing will happen. Only the downfall of the Empire can now save the world. Unless it is already too late.

Are we seeing the emergence of another kind of New World Order, one of less arrogance, one of multi-lateral cooperation? **The world is crying out for a new order where life-and-death issues will be handled by all the world's nations and not trampled on by one greedy colossus that imagines it is the monarch of the planet.**

Join the [CIVIC REVOLUTION](#) today!

Notes:

[1] [Friedman's](#) political philosophy, which he considered classically liberal and libertarian, emphasized the advantages of free market economics and the disadvantages of government intervention and regulation, strongly influencing the opinions of American conservatives and libertarians." His influential book Capitalism and Freedom was published in 1962.

[2] La Riva/Puryear: Abolish NAFTA, CAFTA, FTAA, WTO, IMF, World Bank. Also see [NAFTA/FTAA/CAFTA](#).

[3] Asia's financial crisis - There is no basis for the claim that the Asian financial crisis was due to a lack of sound economic fundamentals. The currencies of the affected countries were forcibly devalued and their financial systems were brought to ruin by the activities of speculators. The crisis has, however, revealed one glaring weakness: the absence of a lender of last resort for the region. (by Chandra Hardy) More about the Asian financial crisis at [Third World Network](#)

[4] The name "is now just a loose label for a movement that seems to target the west", says Marc Sageman, a psychiatrist who has long studied terrorism networks. "There is no umbrella organisation. We like to create a mythical entity called [al-Qaeda] in our minds but that is not the reality we are dealing with."

[5] "From the inception of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 1967 to 1991 economic cooperation among its members was virtually non-existent. However, in January 1992 the leaders of the member states agreed to work towards an ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA). Following an uncertain initial phase the leaders rededicated themselves in 1995 to an accelerated implementation of the ([The Financial Times](#)) [AFTA agreement](#)."

[6] More about this geo-political and economic organization at [ASEAN](#)

[7] More information about [ASEAN and AFTA](#) at What Is Integration

Siv O'Neill is an Axis of Logic columnist, based in France. Her insightful essays are republished and read worldwide. She can be reached at siv@axisoflogic.com

Read her Biography and more of articles by [Siv O'Neill](#) on Axis of Logic.

Axis of Logic Civic Revolution [articles](#)

Axis of Logic [front page](#)

[+](#) Share / Save [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:55 AM](#) [0 comments](#) [✉](#)

Chris Hedges: The Health Care Hindenburg Has Landed

Insert: March 22 On This Day In History
The Stamp Act 1765

Intended to help pay British debts from the French and Indian War, **the Stamp Act established the first direct tax levied on the American colonies**. It required all newspapers, pamphlets, legal documents, commercial bills, advertisements, and other papers issued in the colonies to bear a tax stamp. **The act was vehemently protested by the colonists**, and the Stamp Act Congress—the first significant joint colonial response to any British measure—petitioned for its repeal.

... The Act was repealed on March 18, 1766 as a matter of expedience, but Parliament affirmed its power to tax the colonies “in all cases whatsoever” by also passing the Declaratory Act. **This incident increased the colonists' concerns about the intent of the British Parliament and added fuel to the growing movement that became the American Revolution.**

The Free Dictionary [The Stamp Act](#)

The Health Care Hindenburg Has Landed

By Chris Hedges [article link](#)
Posted on Mar 22, 2010

Rep. Dennis Kucinich’s decision to vote “yes” in Sunday’s House action on the health care bill, although he had sworn to oppose the legislation unless there was a public option, is a perfect example of why I would never be a politician. I respect Kucinich. As politicians go, he is about as good as they get, but he is still a politician. He has to run for office. He has to raise money. He has to placate the Democratic machine or risk retaliation and defeat. And so he signed on to a bill that will do nothing to ameliorate the suffering of many Americans, will force tens of millions of people to fork over a lot of money for a defective product and, in the end, will add to the ranks of our uninsured.

The claims made by the proponents of the bill are the usual deceptive corporate advertising. The bill will not expand coverage to 30 million uninsured, especially since government subsidies will not take effect until 2014. Families who cannot pay the high premiums, deductibles and co-payments, estimated to be between 15 and 18 percent of most family incomes, will have to default, increasing the number of uninsured. Insurance companies can unilaterally raise prices without ceilings or caps and monopolize local markets to shut out competitors. The \$1.055 trillion spent over the next decade will add new layers of bureaucratic red tape to what is an unmanageable and ultimately unsustainable system.

The mendacity of the Democratic leadership in the face of this reality is staggering. Howard Dean, who is a doctor, said recently: “This is a vote about one thing: Are you for the insurance companies or are you for the American people?” Here is a man who once championed the public option and now has sold his soul. What is the point in supporting him or any of the other Democrats? How much more craven can they get?

Take a look at the health care debacle in Massachusetts, a model for what we will get nationwide. One in six people there who have the mandated insurance say they cannot afford care, and tens of thousands of people have been evicted from the state program because of budget cuts. The 45,000 Americans who die each year because they cannot afford coverage will not be saved under the federal legislation. Half of all personal bankruptcies will still be caused by an inability to pay astronomical medical bills. **The only good news is that health care stocks and bonuses for the heads of these corporations are shooting upward. Chalk this up as yet another victory for our feudal overlords and a defeat for the serfs.**

The U.S. spends twice as much as other industrialized nations on health care—\$7,129 per capita—although 45.7 million Americans remain without health coverage and millions more are inadequately covered, meaning that if they get seriously ill they are not covered. Fourteen thousand Americans a day are now losing their health coverage. A report in the journal Health Affairs estimates that, if the system is left unchanged, one of every five dollars spent by Americans in 2017 will go to health coverage. Private insurance bureaucracy and paperwork consume 31 cents of every health care dollar. **Streamlining payment through a single nonprofit payer would save more than \$400 billion per year, enough,**

Physicians for a National Health Plan points out, to provide comprehensive, high-quality coverage for all Americans. Check out www.healthcare-now.org. It has some of the best analysis.

This bill is not about fiscal responsibility or the common good. The bill is about increasing corporate profit at taxpayer expense. It is the health care industry's version of the Wall Street bailout. It lavishes hundreds of billions in government subsidies on insurance and drug companies. The some 3,000 health care lobbyists in Washington, whose dirty little hands are all over the bill, have once more betrayed the American people for money. The bill is another example of why change will never come from within the Democratic Party. The party is owned and managed by corporations. The five largest private health insurers and their trade group, America's Health Insurance Plans, spent more than \$6 million on lobbying in the first quarter of 2009. Pfizer, the world's biggest drug maker, spent more than \$9 million during the last quarter of 2008 and the first three months of 2009. The Washington Post reported that up to 30 members of Congress from both parties who hold key committee memberships have major investments in health care companies totaling between \$11 million and \$27 million. **President Barack Obama's director of health care policy, who will not discuss single payer as an option, has served on the boards of several health care corporations. And as salaries for most Americans have stagnated or declined during the past decade, health insurance profits have risen by 480 percent.**

Obama and the congressional leadership have consciously shut out advocates of single payer from the debate. The press, including papers such as The New York Times, treats single payer as a fringe movement. The television networks rarely mention it. And yet between 45 and 60 percent of doctors favor single payer. Between 40 and 62 percent of the American people, including 80 percent of registered Democrats, want universal, single-payer not-for-profit health care for all Americans. **The ability of the corporations to discredit and silence voices that represent at least half of the population is another sad testament to the power of our corporate state to frame all discussions.**

Change will come only by building movements that stand in fierce and uncompromising opposition to the Democrats and the Republicans. If they can herd Kucinich and John Conyers, the sponsors of House Resolution 676, a bill that would create a publicly funded National Health Program by eliminating private health insurers, onto the House floor to vote for this corporate theft, what is the point in pretending there is any room left for us in the party? And why should we waste our time with gutless liberal groups such as Moveon.org, which felt the need to collect more than \$1 million to pressure House Democrats who had voted "no" on the original bill to recant? What was this purportedly anti-war group doing anyway serving as an obsequious recruiting arm of the Obama election campaign? The longer we tie ourselves to the Democrats and these bankrupt liberal organizations the more ridiculous and impotent we appear.

"I'm ready to listen to the White House, if the White House is ready to listen to the concerns about putting a public option in this bill," the old Kucinich said on the "Democracy Now!" radio and television program before he flipped. "I mean, they can do that. You know, they're still cutting last-minute deals. **Put the public option back in. Make it a robust public option.** Give the people a chance to really negotiate rates with the insurance companies ... from the standpoint of having a public option. **But don't just tell the people that you're going to call this health care reform, when you're giving insurance companies an even more powerful monopoly status in our economy.**"

A Progressive Journal of News and Opinion.
Copyright © 2010 Truthdig, L.L.C. All rights reserved.
Truthdig [homepage](#)

The GOP's Newfound Defense of 'Consent of the Governed'

by Glenn Greenwald [article link](#) [article link](#)

Monday, March 22, 2010 by Salon.com

Salon [home page](#)

CommonDreams [home page](#)

Obamacare: It's About Enriching Bankers and Wall Street

by Kurt Nimmo [article link](#)

03.22.10

The Silver Bear Cafe [home page](#)

Sunday, March 21, 2010

[Mayberry: My Declaration Of Independence](#)

My Declaration Of Independence

by Mayberry [blog link](#)

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2010

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one to dissolve the political bands which have connected one with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

I hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, one must withdraw consent to be governed, given that government has proved it's self prone to usurpation and tyranny — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the Individual to alter or to abolish it, and to institute self government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to myself shall seem most likely to effect my Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce one under absolute Despotism, it is one's right, it is one's duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide for their own future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of Americans; and such is now the necessity which constrains me to alter my former Systems of Government. The history of the last many Presidents and the CONgress is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over this Individual, and to all Individuals that make up this once great nation. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

They have refused their Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

They have forbidden their Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till their Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, they have utterly neglected to attend to them.

They have refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

They have authored legislation which is unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Founding Principles of this nation, for the sole purpose of fatiguing us into compliance with their ideology.

They have dissolved Representative Government completely, for opposing with manly firmness their invasions on the rights of the people.

They have refused for a long time, after such dissolution, to understand that their place is to represent, not dictate. They have succumbed to bribery, thievery, and coercion, and trampled on the Constitution for which many hundreds of thousands have fought and died to protect.

They have endeavoured to overpopulate these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to constrain others, and encouraging their migrations hither, for the sole purpose of placating their corporate campaign donors, and enlarging the rolls of Democrat voters.

They have obstructed the Administration of Justice by stacking the courts with judicial nominees representing only one ideology.

They have made Judges dependent on their Will alone for the attainment of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

They have erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.

They are keeping among us, in times of domestic peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of the People, in direct violation of Posse Comitatus. They have constructed a mechanism to federalize the National Guard, under the vague pretense of an undefined emergency.

They have affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

They have combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving their Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For giving away our sovereignty, colluding with the United Nations, and contemplating treaties which destroy Constitutionally guaranteed Liberty:

For protecting them, by considering Trial for punishment for any "transgressions" by the World Court on the Inhabitants of these States:

For destroying our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefit of Trial by Jury via the "Patriot Act":

For considering transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences via the World Court:

For abolishing the free System of American Laws, establishing an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these States

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Liberty, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

They have abdicated Representative Government here, by waging War against us.

They have plundered our savings, ravaged our earnings, burnt our livelihoods, and destroyed the lives of our people.

They are at this time contemplating large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Heads of a civilized nation.

They have constrained our fellow Citizens who've taken the Oath to defend the Constitution to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

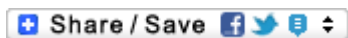
They are exciting domestic insurrections amongst us, and endeavour to bring on Socialists / Communists / Marxists, the merciless Savages whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Government, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our American brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. I must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces my Separation, and hold them, as I hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

I, therefore, the Representative of myself before God, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of my intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the God that gave me life, solemnly publish and declare, That I am a Sovereign Individual, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent, that I am Absolved from all Allegiance to the President and CONgress, and that all political connection between myself and the Federal Government, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as a Free and Independent Individual, I have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent People may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, I pledge to each Sovereign Individual my Life, my Fortune, and my sacred Honor.

Keep It Simple Survival [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [5:02 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Saturday, March 20, 2010

[Tom Barry: Synergy in Security](#)

Synergy in Security: The Rise of the National Security Complex

by Tom Barry [article link](#) [article link](#)

March 18, 2010 by Dollars & Sense

In his January 17, 1961 farewell address, President Dwight D. Eisenhower cautioned: "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by **the military-industrial complex.**"

Five decades later, this complex, which Eisenhower defined as the "conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry," is no longer new. And while Eisenhower's warning is still pertinent, the scale, scope, and substance of the complex have changed in alarming ways. **It has morphed into a new type of public-private partnership-one that spans military, intelligence, and homeland-security contracting, and might be better called a "national security complex."**

Not counting the supplemental authorizations for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, current levels of military spending are, adjusting for inflation, about 45% higher than the military budget when Eisenhower left office. Including the Iraq and Afghanistan war budgets, military spending stands about 30% higher, adjusted for inflation, than any of the post-WWII

highpoints-Korea, Vietnam, and the Reagan build-up in the 1980s. **Private military contracting, which constituted about half of the Pentagon's spending in the 1960s, currently absorbs about 70% of the Department of Defense (DoD) budget. No longer centered exclusively in the Pentagon, outsourcing to private contractors now extends to all aspects of government.** But since 2001, the major surge in federal outsourcing has occurred in the "intelligence community" and in the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Since Sept. 11, 2001, a vastly broadened government-industry complex has emerged-one that brings together all aspects of national security. Several interrelated trends are responsible for its formation and explosive growth: 1) the dramatic growth in government outsourcing since the early 1990s, and particularly since the beginning of the George W. Bush administration, 2) the post-Sept. 11 focus on homeland security, 3) the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, 4) the Bush-era surge in intelligence budget and intelligence contracts, and 5) the cross-agency focus on information and communications technology.

The term "military-industrial complex" no longer adequately describes the multi-headed monster that has emerged in our times. The industrial (that is, big business) part of the military-industrial complex has become ever more deeply integrated into government-no longer simply providing arms but also increasingly offering their services on the fronts of war and deep inside the halls of government-commissioned to carry out the very missions of the DoD, DHS, and intelligence agencies. In the national security complex, it is ever more difficult to determine what is private sector and what is public sector-and whose interests are being served.

Different Departments, Same Companies

In 2008, the federal government handed out contracts to the private sector totaling \$525.5 billion-up from \$209 billion in 2000. That's about a quarter of the entire federal budget. The DoD alone accounts for about \$390 billion, or nearly three-quarters of total federal contracts.

The living symbol of the new national security complex is Lockheed Martin, whose slogan is "We Never Forget Who We're Working For." That's the U.S. government-sales to which account for more than 80% of the company's revenues, with most of the balance coming from international weapons sales and other security contracts facilitated by Washington. In addition to its sales of military hardware, Lockheed is the government's top provider of IT services and systems integration (see Table 1, below) [ref: original article].

Whether it is military operations, interrogations, intelligence gathering, or homeland security, the country's "national security" apparatus is largely in the same hands. Various components of the U.S. national-security state are divvied up among different federal bureaucracies. But increasingly, the main components are finding a common home within corporate America. Corporations such as Lockheed Martin, Boeing, L-3 Communications, and Northrop Grumman have the entire business-military, intelligence, and "homeland security"-covered.

Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, and Boeing led the top ten military contractors in 2008 (see Table 2) [ref: original article].

The 2003 creation of the Department of Homeland Security has helped spawn an explosion of new companies, and new divisions of existing companies, providing "homeland security" products and services. Before President Bush created DHS in the wake of Sept. 11, the agencies that would be merged into the new department did very little outsourcing. From less than 1% of federal contracts (as a total dollar amount) in 2000, outsourcing by DHS has quadrupled as a portion of federal contracting from 2003 to 2009.

Although DHS contracts with scores of new companies, its top contractors are all leading military contractors that have established "homeland security" divisions and subsidiaries.

The top ten DHS contractors in 2008 were Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, IBM, L-3 Communications, Unisys, SAIC, Boeing, Booz Allen Hamilton, General Electric, and Accenture, all leading military contractors. Other major military

contractors among the top 25 DHS contractors include General Dynamics, Fluor, and Computer Sciences Corp (see Table 3) [ref: original article].

There is no public list of corporations that contract for U.S. intelligence agencies. But based on company press releases and filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Tim Shorrock concludes in his new book *Spies for Hire* that the top five intelligence contractors are probably Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, SAIC, General Dynamics, and L-3 Communications. Other major contractors include Booz Allen Hamilton, CACI International, DRS Technologies, and ManTech International, also leading military contractors.

Within the past eight years-since Sept. 11, 2001-the intelligence budget has soared, rising from an estimated \$30 billion in 2000 to an estimated \$66.5 billion today. Intelligence agencies have channeled most of the new funding to private contractors, both major companies like CACI and thousands of individual contractors. **Private contracts now account for about 70% of the intelligence budget.** Intelligence community sources told the Washington Post that private contractors constituted "a significant majority" of analysts working at the new **National Counterterrorism Center**, which provides the White House with terrorism intelligence.

The major military contractors are now moving their headquarters from their production centers, often in California and Texas, to the Washington Beltway in pursuit of more intelligence, military, and homeland security contracts. The gleaming Beltway office buildings of the security corporations are now the most visible symbol of this national security complex.

Boots on the Ground, Computers in Cubicles

Another feature of this evolving, ever-expanding complex is that all the U.S. government departments involved in national security-DoD, State Department, DHS, and intelligence-are outsourcing the boots-on-the-ground components of their missions through the use of private security and military provider firms. Companies such as ArmourGroup (which includes Wackenhut), DynCorp, MPRI, and Xe (formerly Blackwater Worldwide) have injected the private sector directly into the public sector through their work as interrogators, military trainers, prison guards, intelligence agents, and war-fighters.

Five dozen of these security contractors have organized themselves into the **International Peace Operations Association (IPOA)**. After Blackwater came under worldwide scrutiny for its massacre of unarmed Iraqis in central Baghdad on Sept. 17, 2007, the firm left IPOA, whose code of conduct for "peacekeeping" operations it had flagrantly ignored. Blackwater created a new association of private military contractors called **Global Peace and Security Operations**-conveniently without any potentially embarrassing code of conduct.

Private contractors are not only on the frontlines of war and clandestine operations, but have also penetrated the national security bureaucracy itself. Reacting to a March 2008 GAO report on conflicts of interest within the Pentagon, Frida Berrigan of the New America Foundation's Arms and Security Initiative observed that alarming numbers of "cubicle mercenaries" are now working within federal bureaucracies as administrators, contract managers, intelligence analysts, and cybersecurity chiefs. **No longer does the "large arms industry" that Eisenhower warned about just peddle goods like weapons and missiles, it also sells itself through its services.**

Common Dominators of the New Complex: Information and Security

Private contractors are also in control of the core of the complex's information and intelligence systems. Information and communications technology is the fastest-growing sector in government contracting. The DHS's expanding involvement in cybersecurity, information systems, and electronic identification programs, for example, is adding billions of dollars annually to the national security boom.

Lockheed Martin led the ranks of information technology (IT) contractors in 2008, followed by Boeing and Northrop Grumman. Although IT contracts are expanding rapidly, there are few new entrants to the list of top IT providers to the government. Among the top 100 IT contractors, there were just twelve new entrants, as traditional military giants dominated the list (see Table 4) [ref: original article].

One of the largest sources of federal contracting at DHS has been the EAGLE (Enterprise Acquisition Gateway for Leading Edge Solutions) IT program, which awarded \$8.2 billion in contracts in the past three years. Among the leading contractors are CACI, Booz Allen Hamilton, Lockheed Martin, SAIC, Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics, and BAE Systems-all major military contractors. Most of the EAGLE IT bonanza is in the form of "indefinite-delivery, indefinite quantity contracts" that provide generous operating room for IT firms to determine their own solutions to DHS' vast IT and cybersecurity requirements.

The major military corporations have quickly formed new branches to focus on these new opportunities outside of their traditional core contracts with the Pentagon. This year, for example, Northrop Grumman created a new Information Systems division to seek military, homeland security, and intelligence IT contracts. Recognizing the interest in the Obama administration in cyber-security and information war, corporations such as Booz Allen Hamilton and Hewlett-Packard, among others, have created new cybersecurity divisions or subsidiaries. Similarly, the new administration's focus on transnational disease has led military companies such as General Dynamics to acquire medical subsidiaries.

Revolving-Door Security Consultants

Another manifestation of the new national security complex is the rise of a new series of consulting agencies that act as an interface between government and their clients. That's an easy connection for such companies as the **Chertoff Group, Ridge Global, and RiceHadley Group**, since all their principals recently left government, where they had presided over the unprecedented wave of outsourcing.

Two of these national security agencies are headed by the DHS's first two secretaries, Michael Chertoff and Tom Ridge, while the newest group brings together Condoleezza Rice and Stephen Hadley, who only a year ago were serving as secretary of state and national security adviser, respectively.

When announcing his group's formation, Chertoff boasted, "Our principals have worked closely together for years, as leaders of the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the National Security Agency and the CIA." Indeed, a leading member of this new group is former CIA director Michael Hayden (2005-2009), who also directed the National Security Agency (1999-2005). Others include former DHS deputy Paul Schneider (who was head of acquisitions for NSA and the U.S. Navy prior to his position at DHS); Admiral Jay Cohen (Ret.), who was DHS director of science and technology and previously the Navy's technology chief; and Charlie Allen, who was the intelligence chief at DHS and, according to Michael Chertoff, "pretty much head of everything you could be for the CIA."

The Chertoff Group has now hooked up with Blue Star Capital, a transatlantic investment company specializing in mergers and acquisitions in the security business. In its announcement of the new partnership, Blue Star emphasized their joint interest in "generating opportunities" across the national security spectrum-"in the homeland security, defense, and intelligence markets."

Chertoff himself applauded the value of the merger: "I believe there are many areas of opportunity within the Homeland Security, Intelligence and Defense sectors where the synergies between Blue Star and the Chertoff Group will provide real value."

Taking Back Security

The "unwarranted influence" that concerned Eisenhower during the Cold War now pervades national politics and is rarely questioned. Nor has there been any evaluation of the achievements of the increasingly privatized national security complex. In his 2010 State of the Union address, President Obama talked about the need for fiscal restraint, but exempted "national security" from the planned spending freeze. Despite manifold evidence of vast waste and scandalous profiteering in the security apparatus-to say nothing of "unnecessary wars"-the president didn't see fit to scale back the security agencies. By failing to do so, he has all but guaranteed that the outsourcing bonanza will continue. **With "national security" off limits for budget cuts, Obama signaled that safeguarding the nation against the "unwarranted influence" and "rise of misplaced power" will not be priorities for this administration.**

As major corporations such as Lockheed Martin and security consulting agencies such as the Chertoff Group extend their corporate tentacles into the intelligence, military, and homeland security terrains, the greater threat they pose. **The corporate penetration of all the government's information-gathering, communications, intelligence, and data systems undermines democratic governance.** The new corporate domination of data-mining, communications, and cybersecurity systems-with little or no government oversight -threatens individual liberty and privacy. **This also creates a powerful vested interest in a large and growing "national security" apparatus-and one that is deeply integrated with the top echelons of the intelligence agencies, military, and other parts of this secretive state-within-the-state.**

In the end, it's not the contractors that are the central problem with the national security complex-it's the outsourcers, that is, the elected politicians and the government administrators they appoint or confirm. The contractors are working to maximize profits, and are answerable mainly to company shareholders. The outsourcers, however, are ultimately answerable, at least in principle, to the public. **What is at stake is who really controls public policy-a democratically accountable government, or an unaccountable fusion of governmental and corporate power.**

© 2010 Dollars & Sense

Tom Barry is a senior policy analyst and director of the TransBorder Project at the Center for International Policy in Washington, D.C. Barry is the author of numerous books on U.S. foreign policy, and he blogs on border security, immigration, and homeland security issues at borderlinesblog.blogspot.com.

Sources: Center for Defense Information, "Military Budgets 1946-2009,"; Center for Arms Control and NonProliferation, "2008-2009 U.S. Defense Spending Highest Since WWII," Feb. 20, 2008; FedSpending.org, a project of OMB Watch; USASpending.gov; Tim Shorrock, New Spies for Hire: The Secret World of Intelligence Outsourcing, 2008; FY2009 Intelligence Budget, GlobalSecurity.org; F.J. Hillhouse, "Outsourcing Intelligence," The Nation, July 24, 2007; Walter Pincus, "Lawmakers Want More Data on Contracting Out Intelligence," Washington Post, May 7, 2006; David Horowitz, ed., Corporations and the Cold War, 1969; GAO, "Defense Contracting: Army Case Study Delineates Concerns with Use of Contractors as Contract Specialists," March 2008; Frida Berrigan, "Military Industrial Complex 2.0," TruthOut, Sept. 14, 2008; "2009 Top 100," Washington Technology; DHS, Enterprise Solutions Office, EAGLE contracts; Global Homeland Security 2009-2019, VisionGain, June 23, 2009; Chertoff Group web pages, chertoffgroup.com; Homeland Security & Defense Business Council web pages, AntiWar.com, July 28, 2008; Allison Stanger, One Nation Under Contract: The Outsourcing of American Power and the Future of Foreign Policy (Yale University Press, 2009); Project on Government Oversight (POGO); Deborah Avant, The Market for Force: The Consequences of Privatizing Security (Cambridge University Press, 2005); Center for Public Integrity, "Making a Killing: The Business of War," 2002, "The Shadow Pentagon," 2004; Peter Singer, Corporate Warriors (Cornell University Press, 2003).

CommonDreams [home page](#)

Dollars & Sense [home page](#)

Seven Years In, Iraq's Future as Uncertain as Ever

Political Uncertainty, Ever Present Threat of Violence Remain

by Jason Ditz [article link](#)

March 19, 2010 Antiwar

Antiwar [home page](#)

Time for Rebirth: The US Antiwar Movement is Grieving, Dreaming, Growing

by Clare Bayard & Sarah Lazare [article link](#)

March 19, 2010 by CommonDreams.org

Weapons Makers as 'Welfare Queens'

by Tom Engelhardt [article link](#) [article link](#)

March 19, 2010 by TomDispatch.com

TomDispatch [home page](#)

The Pentagon Church Militant and Us

The Top Five Questions We Should Ask the Pentagon

By William J. Astore [article link](#) [article link](#)

March 18, 2010

American Empire Project [home page](#)

Don't Stand By as the Wars 'Drone' On

by Ann Wright [article link](#)

March 19, 2010 by CommonDreams.org

DISSENT: Voices of Conscience [home page](#)

CommonDreams [home page](#)

Iraqi Holocaust

7th Anniversary Of Invasion Of Iraq

By Dr Gideon Polya [article link](#) [article link](#)

19 March, 2010 "Countercurrents"

CounterCurrents [home page](#)

Information Clearing House [home page](#)

The Forgotten War

by Laurence M. Vance [article link](#)

March 20, 2010 LewRockwell

LewRockwell [home page](#)

Supporting the War Instead of the Troops

by Dr. Ron Paul [article link](#)

Saturday, March 20, 2010, Guest Editorial

The Daily Bell [home page](#)

Vanity of Vanities: The Iraq War Seven Years Later

by: t r u t h o u t | Staff Editorial [article link](#)

Saturday 20 March 2010

truthout [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:13 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Friday, March 19, 2010

Chris Hedges: Zero Point Of Systemic Collapse 1

Zero Point Of Systemic Collapse

By Chris Hedges [article link](#)

19 March, 2010 Adbusters.org

Aleksandr Herzen, speaking a century ago to a group of anarchists about how to overthrow the czar, reminded his listeners that it was not their job to save a dying system but to replace it: “We think we are the doctors. We are the disease.” **All resistance must recognize that the body politic and global capitalism are dead. We should stop wasting energy trying to reform or appeal to it.** This does not mean the end of resistance, but it does mean very different forms of resistance. **It means turning our energies toward building sustainable communities to weather the coming crisis, since we will be unable to survive and resist without a cooperative effort.**

These communities, if they retreat into a pure survivalist mode without linking themselves to the concentric circles of the wider community, the state and the planet, will become as morally and spiritually bankrupt as the corporate forces arrayed against us. **All infrastructures we build, like the monasteries in the Middle Ages, should seek to keep alive the intellectual and artistic traditions that make a civil society, humanism and the common good possible.** Access to parcels of agricultural land will be paramount. We will have to grasp, as the medieval monks did, that we cannot alter the larger culture around us, at least in the short term, but we may be able to retain the moral codes and culture for generations beyond ours. **Resistance will be reduced to small, often imperceptible acts of defiance, as those who retained their integrity discovered in the long night of 20th-century fascism and communism.**

We stand on the cusp of one of the bleakest periods in human history when the bright lights of a civilization blink out and we will descend for decades, if not centuries, into barbarity. The elites have successfully convinced us that we no longer have the capacity to understand the revealed truths presented before us or to fight back against the chaos caused by economic and environmental catastrophe. As long as the mass of bewildered and frightened people, fed images that permit them to perpetually hallucinate, exist in this state of barbarism, they may periodically strike out with a blind fury against increased state repression, widespread poverty and food shortages. But they will lack the ability and self-confidence to challenge in big and small ways the structures of control. **The fantasy of widespread popular revolts and mass movements breaking the hegemony of the corporate state is just that – a fantasy.**

My analysis comes close to the analysis of many anarchists. But there is a crucial difference. The anarchists do not understand the nature of violence. They grasp the extent of the rot in our cultural and political institutions, they know they must sever the tentacles of consumerism, but they naïvely believe that it can be countered with physical forms of resistance and acts of violence. There are debates within the anarchist movement – such as those on the destruction of property – but once you start using plastic explosives, innocent people get killed. **And when anarchic violence begins to disrupt the mechanisms of governance, the power elite will use these acts, however minor, as an excuse to employ disproportionate and ruthless amounts of force against real and suspected agitators, only fueling the rage of the dispossessed.**

I am not a pacifist. I know there are times, and even concede that this may eventually be one of them, when human beings are forced to respond to mounting repression with violence. I was in Sarajevo during the war in Bosnia. We knew precisely what the Serbian forces ringing the city would do to us if they broke through the defenses and trench system around the besieged city. We had the examples of the Drina Valley or the city of Vukovar, where about a third of the Muslim inhabitants had been killed and the rest herded into refugee or displacement camps. There are times when the only choice left is to pick up a weapon to defend your family, neighborhood and city. But those who proved most adept at defending Sarajevo invariably came from the criminal class. When they were not shooting at Serbian soldiers they were looting the

apartments of ethnic Serbs in Sarajevo and often executing them, as well as terrorizing their fellow Muslims. **When you ingest the poison of violence, even in a just cause, it corrupts, deforms and perverts you. Violence is a drug, indeed it is the most potent narcotic known to humankind.** Those most addicted to violence are those who have access to weapons and a penchant for force. And these killers rise to the surface of any armed movement and contaminate it with the intoxicating and seductive power that comes with the ability to destroy. I have seen it in war after war. When you go down that road you end up pitting your monsters against their monsters. And the sensitive, the humane and the gentle, those who have a propensity to nurture and protect life, are marginalized and often killed. The romantic vision of war and violence is as prevalent among anarchists and the hard left as it is in the mainstream culture. **Those who resist with force will not defeat the corporate state or sustain the cultural values that must be sustained if we are to have a future worth living.** From my many years as a war correspondent in El Salvador, Guatemala, Gaza and Bosnia, I have seen that armed resistance movements are always mutations of the violence that spawned them. I am not naïve enough to think I could have avoided these armed movements had I been a landless Salvadoran or Guatemalan peasant, a Palestinian in Gaza or a Muslim in Sarajevo, but this **violent response to repression is and always will be tragic. It must be avoided, although not at the expense of our own survival.**

Democracy, a system ideally designed to challenge the status quo, has been corrupted and tamed to slavishly serve the status quo. We have undergone, as John Ralston Saul writes, a coup d'état in slow motion. And the coup is over. They won. We lost. **The abject failure of activists to push corporate, industrialized states toward serious environmental reform, to thwart imperial adventurism or to build a humane policy toward the masses of the world's poor stems from an inability to recognize the new realities of power. The paradigm of power has irrevocably altered and so must the paradigm of resistance alter.**

Too many resistance movements continue to buy into the facade of electoral politics, parliaments, constitutions, bills of rights, lobbying and the appearance of a rational economy. The levers of power have become so contaminated that the needs and voices of citizens have become irrelevant. The election of Barack Obama was yet another triumph of propaganda over substance and a skillful manipulation and betrayal of the public by the mass media. We mistook style and ethnicity – an advertising tactic pioneered by the United Colors of Benetton and Calvin Klein – for progressive politics and genuine change. We confused how we were made to feel with knowledge. But the goal, as with all brands, was to make passive consumers mistake a brand for an experience. Obama, now a global celebrity, is a brand. He had almost no experience besides two years in the senate, lacked any moral core and was sold as all things to all people. The Obama campaign was named Advertising Age's marketer of the year for 2008 and edged out runners-up Apple and Zappos.com. Take it from the professionals. Brand Obama is a marketer's dream. President Obama does one thing and Brand Obama gets you to believe another. This is the essence of successful advertising. You buy or do what the advertisers want because of how they can make you feel.

We live in a culture characterized by what Benjamin DeMott called "junk politics." Junk politics does not demand justice or the reparation of rights. It always personalizes issues rather than clarifying them. It eschews real debate for manufactured scandals, celebrity gossip and spectacles. It trumpets eternal optimism, endlessly praises our moral strength and character, and communicates in a feel-your-pain language. The result of junk politics is that nothing changes, "meaning zero interruption in the processes and practices that strengthen existing, interlocking systems of socioeconomic advantage."

The cultural belief that we can make things happen by thinking, by visualizing, by wanting them, by tapping into our inner strength or by understanding that we are truly exceptional is magical thinking. We can always make more money, meet new quotas, consume more products and advance our career if we have enough faith. This magical thinking, preached to us across the political spectrum by Oprah, sports celebrities, Hollywood, self-help gurus and Christian demagogues, is largely responsible for our economic and environmental collapse, since any Cassandra who saw it coming was dismissed as "negative." This belief, which allows men and women to behave and act like little children, discredits legitimate concerns and anxieties. It exacerbates despair and passivity. It fosters a state of self-delusion. **The purpose, structure and goals of the corporate state are never seriously questioned. To question, to engage in criticism of the corporate collective, is to be obstructive and negative.** And it has perverted the way we view ourselves, our nation and the natural world. **The new paradigm of power, coupled with its bizarre ideology of limitless progress and impossible happiness, has turned whole nations, including the United States, into monsters.**

We can march in Copenhagen. We can join Bill McKibben's worldwide day of climate protests. We can compost in our backyards and hang our laundry out to dry. We can write letters to our elected officials and vote for Barack Obama, but **the power elite is impervious to the charade of democratic participation. Power is in the hands of moral and intellectual trolls who are ruthlessly creating a system of neo-feudalism and killing the ecosystem that sustains the human species.** And appealing to their better nature, or seeking to influence the internal levers of power, will no longer work.

We will not, especially in the United States, avoid our Götterdämmerung. Obama, like Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the other heads of the industrialized nations, has proven as craven a tool of the corporate state as George W. Bush. **Our democratic system has been transformed into what the political philosopher Sheldon Wolin labels inverted totalitarianism.** Inverted totalitarianism, unlike classical totalitarianism, does not revolve around a demagogue or charismatic leader. **It finds expression in the anonymity of the corporate state.** It purports to cherish democracy, patriotism, a free press, parliamentary systems and constitutions while manipulating and corrupting internal levers to subvert and thwart democratic institutions. Political candidates are elected in popular votes by citizens but are ruled by armies of corporate lobbyists in Washington, Ottawa or other state capitals who author the legislation and get the legislators to pass it. A corporate media controls nearly everything we read, watch or hear and imposes a bland uniformity of opinion. Mass culture, owned and disseminated by corporations, diverts us with trivia, spectacles and celebrity gossip. In classical totalitarian regimes, such as Nazi fascism or Soviet communism, economics was subordinate to politics. "Under inverted totalitarianism the reverse is true," Wolin writes. "Economics dominates politics – and with that domination comes different forms of ruthlessness."

Inverted totalitarianism wields total power without resorting to cruder forms of control such as gulags, concentration camps or mass terror. It harnesses science and technology for its dark ends. It enforces ideological uniformity by using mass communication systems to instill profligate consumption as an inner compulsion and to substitute our illusions of ourselves for reality. It does not forcibly suppress dissidents, as long as those dissidents remain ineffectual. And as it diverts us it dismantles manufacturing bases, devastates communities, unleashes waves of human misery and ships jobs to countries where fascists and communists know how to keep workers in line. It does all this while waving the flag and mouthing patriotic slogans. "The United States has become the showcase of how democracy can be managed without appearing to be suppressed," Wolin writes.

 Share /  Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:44 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Chris Hedges: Zero Point Of Systemic Collapse 2](#)

The practice and psychology of advertising, the rule of "market forces" in many arenas other than markets, the continuous technological advances that encourage elaborate fantasies (computer games, virtual avatars, space travel), the saturation by mass media and propaganda of every household and the takeover of the universities have rendered most of us hostages. **The rot of imperialism, which is always incompatible with democracy, has seen the military and arms manufacturers monopolize \$1 trillion a year in defense-related spending in the United States even as the nation faces economic collapse.** Imperialism always militarizes domestic politics. And this militarization, as Wolin notes, combines with the cultural fantasies of hero worship and tales of individual prowess, eternal youthfulness, beauty through surgery, action measured in nanoseconds and a dream-laden culture of ever-expanding control and possibility to sever huge segments of the population from reality. **Those who control the images control us.** And while we have been entranced by the celluloid shadows on the walls of Plato's cave, **these corporate forces, extolling the benefits of privatization, have effectively dismantled the institutions of social democracy** (Social Security, unions, welfare, public health services and public housing) and rolled back the social and political ideals of the New Deal. The proponents of globalization and unregulated capitalism do not waste time analyzing other ideologies. They have an ideology, or rather a plan of action that is defended by an ideology, and slavishly follow it. We on the left have dozens of analyses of competing ideologies without any coherent plan of our own. This has left us floundering while corporate forces ruthlessly dismantle civil society.

We are living through one of civilization's great seismic reversals. **The ideology of globalization, like all "inevitable" utopian visions, is being exposed as a fraud. The power elite, perplexed and confused, clings to the disastrous principles of globalization and its outdated language to mask the looming political and economic vacuum.** The absurd

idea that the marketplace alone should determine economic and political constructs led industrial nations to sacrifice other areas of human importance – from working conditions, to taxation, to child labor, to hunger, to health and pollution – on the altar of free trade. It left the world's poor worse off and the United States with the largest deficits – which can never be repaid – in human history. The massive bailouts, stimulus packages, giveaways and short-term debt, along with imperial wars we can no longer afford, will leave the United States struggling to finance nearly \$5 trillion in debt this year. This will require Washington to auction off about \$96 billion in debt a week. Once China and the oil-rich states walk away from our debt, which one day has to happen, the Federal Reserve will become the buyer of last resort. The Fed has printed perhaps as much as two trillion new dollars in the last two years, and buying this much new debt will see it, in effect, print trillions more. This is when inflation, and most likely hyperinflation, will turn the dollar into junk. And at that point the entire system breaks down.

All traditional standards and beliefs are shattered in a severe economic crisis. The moral order is turned upside down. The honest and industrious are wiped out while the gangsters, profiteers and speculators walk away with millions. The elite will retreat, as Naomi Klein has written in *The Shock Doctrine*, into gated communities where they will have access to services, food, amenities and security denied to the rest of us. **We will begin a period in human history when there will be only masters and serfs. The corporate forces, which will seek to make an alliance with the radical Christian right and other extremists, will use fear, chaos, the rage at the ruling elites and the specter of left-wing dissent and terrorism to impose draconian controls to ruthlessly extinguish opposition movements.** And while they do it, they will be waving the American flag, chanting patriotic slogans, promising law and order and clutching the Christian cross. Totalitarianism, George Orwell pointed out, is not so much an age of faith but an age of schizophrenia. “A society becomes totalitarian when its structure becomes flagrantly artificial,” Orwell wrote. “That is when its ruling class has lost its function but succeeds in clinging to power by force or fraud.” Our elites have used fraud. Force is all they have left.

Our mediocre and bankrupt elite is desperately trying to save a system that cannot be saved. More importantly, they are trying to save themselves. All attempts to work within this decayed system and this class of power brokers will prove useless. **And resistance must respond to the harsh new reality of a global, capitalist order that will cling to power through ever-mounting forms of brutal and overt repression.** Once credit dries up for the average citizen, once massive joblessness creates a permanent and enraged underclass and the cheap manufactured goods that are the opiates of our commodity culture vanish, we will probably evolve into a system that more closely resembles classical totalitarianism. Cruder, more violent forms of repression will have to be employed as the softer mechanisms of control favored by inverted totalitarianism break down.

It is not accidental that the economic crisis will converge with the environmental crisis. In his book **The Great Transformation (1944)**, Karl Polanyi laid out the devastating consequences – the depressions, wars and totalitarianism – that grow out of a so-called self-regulated free market. He grasped that “fascism, like socialism, was rooted in a market society that refused to function.” **He warned that a financial system always devolves, without heavy government control, into a Mafia capitalism – and a Mafia political system – which is a good description of our financial and political structure.** A self-regulating market, Polanyi wrote, turns human beings and the natural environment into commodities, a situation that ensures the destruction of both society and the natural environment. The free market's assumption that nature and human beings are objects whose worth is determined by the market allows each to be exploited for profit until exhaustion or collapse. **A society that no longer recognizes that nature and human life have a sacred dimension, an intrinsic value beyond monetary value, commits collective suicide. Such societies cannibalize themselves until they die. This is what we are undergoing.**

If we build self-contained structures, ones that do as little harm as possible to the environment, **we can weather the coming collapse.** This task will be accomplished through the existence of small, physical enclaves that have access to sustainable agriculture, are able to sever themselves as much as possible from commercial culture and can be largely self-sufficient. These communities will have to build walls against electronic propaganda and fear that will be pumped out over the airwaves. Canada will probably be a more hospitable place to do this than the United States, given America's strong undercurrent of violence. But in any country, those who survive will need isolated areas of land as well as distance from urban areas, which will see the food deserts in the inner cities, as well as savage violence, leach out across the urban landscape as produce and goods become prohibitively expensive and state repression becomes harsher and harsher.

The increasingly overt uses of force by the elites to maintain control should not end acts of resistance. Acts of resistance are moral acts. They begin because people of conscience understand the moral imperative to challenge systems of abuse and despotism. They should be carried out not because they are effective but because they are right. Those who begin these acts are always few in number and dismissed by those who hide their cowardice behind their cynicism. **But resistance, however marginal, continues to affirm life in a world awash in death. It is the supreme act of faith, the highest form of spirituality and alone makes hope possible.** Those who carried out great acts of resistance often sacrificed their security and comfort, often spent time in jail and in some cases were killed. **They understood that to live in the fullest sense of the word, to exist as free and independent human beings, even under the darkest night of state repression, meant to defy injustice.**

When the dissident **Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer** was taken from his cell in a Nazi prison to the gallows, his last words were: “This is for me the end, but also the beginning.” Bonhoeffer knew that most of the citizens in his nation were complicit through their silence in a vast enterprise of death. But however hopeless it appeared in the moment, he affirmed what we all must affirm. He did not avoid death. He did not, as a distinct individual, survive. But he understood that his resistance and even his death were acts of love. He fought and died for the sanctity of life. He gave, even to those who did not join him, another narrative, and his defiance ultimately condemned his executioners.

We must continue to resist, but do so now with the discomforting realization that significant change will probably never occur in our lifetime. This makes resistance harder. It shifts resistance from the tangible and the immediate to the amorphous and the indeterminate. **But to give up acts of resistance is spiritual and intellectual death. It is to surrender to the dehumanizing ideology of totalitarian capitalism. Acts of resistance keep alive another narrative, sustain our integrity and empower others, who we may never meet, to stand up and carry the flame we pass to them.** No act of resistance is useless, whether it is refusing to pay taxes, fighting for a Tobin tax, working to shift the neoclassical economics paradigm, revoking a corporate charter, holding global internet votes or using Twitter to catalyze a chain reaction of refusal against the neoliberal order. But we will have to resist and then find the faith that resistance is worthwhile, for we will not immediately alter the awful configuration of power. And in this long, long war a community to sustain us, emotionally and materially, will be the key to a life of defiance.

The philosopher Theodor Adorno wrote that the exclusive preoccupation with personal concerns and indifference to the suffering of others beyond the self-identified group is what ultimately made fascism and the Holocaust possible: “The inability to identify with others was unquestionably the most important psychological condition for the fact that something like Auschwitz could have occurred in the midst of more or less civilized and innocent people.”

The indifference to the plight of others and the supreme elevation of the self is what the corporate state seeks to instill in us. It uses fear, as well as hedonism, to thwart human compassion. We will have to continue to battle the mechanisms of the dominant culture, if for no other reason than to preserve through small, even tiny acts, our common humanity. We will have to resist the temptation to fold in on ourselves and to ignore the cruelty outside our door. Hope endures in these often imperceptible acts of defiance. **This defiance, this capacity to say no, is what the psychopathic forces in control of our power systems seek to eradicate.** As long as we are willing to defy these forces we have a chance, if not for ourselves, then at least for those who follow. **As long as we defy these forces we remain alive.** And for now this is the only victory possible.

Chris Hedges, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for the New York Times, is the author of several books including the best sellers *War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning* and his latest, *Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle*.

CounterCurrents [home page](#)

Adbusters [home page](#)

Adbusters Magazine [web page](#)

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:25 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Real Christians Fight Against Injustice

Real Christians Fight Against Injustice

Washington's Blog [blog link](#)

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010

Preface: If you are (1) an atheist and believe that religion is crazy or (2) of a faith that doesn't value the Bible, please remember that the overwhelming majority of Americans identify themselves as Christian, and that most people make decisions and process information based on their beliefs. As I pointed out last month:

The overwhelming majority - [75%](#) - of all Americans consider themselves to be Christian. It is irrelevant for this discussion ... whether or not those 75% are all living up to their values, whether every word of the Bible is true, whether Christianity is a detrimental force undermining democracy and reason, or whether all organized religion is a con... What is important is that most Americans are Christian, and so [I invite you to become at least a little bit "bilingual" and to] speak in language meaningful to Christians.

As James 2:20 reminds us:

Faith without works is dead.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Chris Hedges [points out](#) that:

Anger at injustice, as Martin Luther King wrote, is the political expression of love.

In other words, having faith and love is only half of what it means to be Christian. The other half is putting that faith and love into action, by fighting for justice.

As I [wrote](#) in November:

The Bible does not counsel us to ignore the breaking of laws by the the powerful.

In fact, the Bible mentions justice over 200 times -- more than just about any other topic. The Bible asks us to do justice and to stand up to ANYONE -- including the rich or powerful -- who do injustice or oppress the people.

There have been widespread, credible allegations that Goldman Sachs and other giant banks have broken the law (see [this](#), for example).

Indeed, one of the first things God asks of us is to do justice:

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)

While many churches and synagogues have become obsessed with other issues, many have arguably ignored this most important of God's demands of us. As pointed out by [a leading Christian ministry](#), which rescues underage girls trapped as sex slaves in third world countries:

In Scripture there is a constant call to seek justice. Jesus got upset at the Pharisees because they neglected the weightier matters of the law, which He defined as justice and the love of God . . . Isaiah 58 complains about the fact that while the people of God are praying and praying and praying, they are not doing anything about the injustice.

Should Christians just pray for justice and leave the rest to God?

That's not what the Bible asks us to do. Instead, **Hebrews 11:33 tells us that we are God's hands for dispensing justice, and God uses us to "administer justice."**

We have to "walk our talk" and put our prayers into action.

God demands that we do everything in our power to act as "God's hands" in bringing justice. And as Saint Augustine reminds us, "Charity is no substitute for justice withheld."

Please reflect on the following Scripture:

The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, He was appalled that there was no one to intervene. (Isaiah 59:15-16)

This is the only place in the Bible where the word "appalled" is used for the way God feels -- in other words, the only thing which we know God is appalled by is if people are not doing justice.

There are hundreds of other references to justice in the Bible, including:

- * Blessed are they who maintain justice (Psalm 106:3)
- * This is what the LORD says: Maintain justice and do what is right (Isiah 56:1)
- * This is what the LORD says: Do what is just and right. (Jeremiah 22:3,13-17)
- * Follow justice and justice alone. (Deuteronomy 16:19, 20)
- * For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice (Job 11:5,7)
- * Learn to do right! Seek justice (Isaiah 1:17)

So if the powerful players in the giant banks broke the laws, they must be held to account.

Manipulating Money

Moreover, there have been credible [allegations](#) that Goldman Sachs and other giant banks manipulate the currency and other markets.

As Ron Paul [notes](#), the Bible forbids altering the quality of money (which, at the time and place, was entirely in the form of coins):

Even the Bible is clear that altering the quality of money is an immoral act. **We are instructed to follow the rules of "just weights and measures."** "You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight, or volume. You shall have just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin" (Leviticus 19:35-36). "Diverse weights are an abomination to the LORD, and a false balance is not good" (Proverbs 20:23). The general principle can be summed as "You shall not steal."

Proverbs 11:1 also provides:

Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is His delight.

So to the extent that the giant banks have engaged in any dishonest acts or the manipulation of currencies, they are violating scripture.

Of course, any bankers who charge usurious interest rates should remember the little story about Jesus turning over the money changers' tables.

Oppression of the Poor

Finally, the Bible condemns oppression of the poor for the benefit of the affluent:

He that oppresses the poor to increase his riches, and he that gives to the rich, shall surely come to want. (Proverbs 22:16)

To the extent that the giant banks have oppressed the poor to increase their riches, they are violating scripture.

Real Christians Versus Fake Christians

In view of the foregoing, Glenn Beck calling churches which teach justice "nazis" and "communists" is fairly amusing.

Of course, churches in Nazi Germany mainly [supported](#) Adolph Hitler's unjust fascist policies. And communist Russia [largely banned](#) churches and persecuted Christians. So Beck's comparison of American churches which teach social justice to nazi or communist churches is - on its face - nonsensical.

More importantly, in a must-read [essay](#), Reverend James Martin rips apart Beck's fake Christianity:

Glenn Beck said last week on his eponymous show that Christians should leave churches that preach “social justice.” Mr. Beck equated the desire for a just society with—wait for it—Nazism and Communism.

I'm begging you, your right to religion and freedom to exercise religion and read all of the passages of the Bible as you want to read them and as your church wants to preach them . . . are going to come under the ropes in the next year. If it lasts that long it will be the next year. I beg you, look for the words 'social justice' or 'economic justice' on your church Web site. If you find it, run as fast as you can. Social justice and economic justice, they are code words. Now, am I advising people to leave their church? Yes.

Of course this means that you would have to leave the Catholic Church, which has long championed that aspect of the Gospel. The term “**social justice**” originated way back in the 1800s (and probably predates even that), and has been continually underlined by the Magisterium and popes since Leo XIII, who began the modern tradition of Catholic social teaching with his encyclical on capital and labor, [Rerum Novarum](#) in 1891. Subsequent popes have built on Leo's work, continuing the church's meditation on a variety of issues of social just in such landmark documents as Pope Pius XI's encyclical on "the reconstruction of the social order," [Quadregismo Anno](#) (1931), Paul VI's encyclical "on the development of peoples," [Populorum Progressio](#) (1967) and John Paul II's encyclical "on the social concerns of the church" [Sollicitudo Rei Socialis](#) (1987). Social justice also undergirds much of Catholic social teaching on peace. “If you want peace,” said Pope Paul VI, “work for justice.”

[The Compendium of the Social Teaching of the Church](#), published by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, says this:

The Church's social Magisterium constantly calls for the most classical forms of justice to be respected: commutative, distributive and legal justice. Ever greater importance has been given to social justice., which represents a real development in general justice, the justice that regulates social relationships according to the criterion of observance of the law. Social justice, a requirement related to the social question which today is worldwide in scope, concerns the social, political and economic aspects and, above all, the structural dimension of problems and their respective solutions....

Justice is particularly important in the present-day context, where the individual value of the person, his dignity and his rights — despite proclaimed intentions — are seriously threatened by the widespread tendency to make exclusive use of criteria of utility and ownership.

Oh, and social justice is not just some silly foreign idea. American Catholics know that the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops have an Office of Justice, Peace and Human Development. On that website [the U.S. bishops say](#): “At the core of

the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict." I.e., social justice.

Okay, you get it, right? Social justice is an essential part of Catholic teaching. It's part of being a Catholic. So Glenn Beck is, in essence, saying "Leave the Catholic church." Or, if you like, the Catholic church is a Nazi church. (Which would have surprised Alfred Delp or Rupert Mayer or Maximilian Kolbe.) Or a Communist one (Which would have surprised Jerzy Popieluszko and Karol Wojtyla).

But Glenn Beck is saying something else, which might get lost in the translation: "Leave Christianity." ...

Our responsibility to care for "the least of these" does not end with simple charity. Giving someone a handout is an important part of the Christian message. But so is advocating for them. **It is not enough simply to help the poor, one must address the structures that keep them poor.** Standing up for the rights of the poor is not being a Nazi, it's being a Christian. And Communist? It's hard not to think of the retort of the great apostle of social justice, Dom Helder Camara, archbishop of Recife, "When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist." ...

Ignoring the poor, and ignoring what keeps the poor, is, quite simply, unchristian. For the poor are the church in many ways. When St. Lawrence, in the fourth century, was ordered by the prefect of Rome to turn over the wealth of the church, he presented to him the poor.

Glenn Beck's desire to detach social justice from the Gospel is a subtle move to detach care for the poor from the Gospel. **But a church without the poor, and a church without a desire for a just social world for all, is not the church. At least not the church of Jesus Christ.**

Churches working for social and economic justice are also [speaking out](#):

[Bread for the World](#), a Christian group devoted to eradicating world hunger, has started a [petition](#) to demand that Beck stop spreading "misinformation and fear" through his radio and TV broadcasts.

"Economic and social justice are central to the gospel of Jesus Christ," the petition reads. "Quit using your bully pulpit to spread misinformation and fear by comparing faithful Christians who care 'for the least of these' to Nazis and communists."

The New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good ... has started a campaign to raise money towards a video rebuking Beck's assertion.

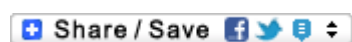
"We are launching a campaign to reclaim love of neighbor, especially the least, last, and lost, as an Evangelical Christian value. We believe love is central to everything Jesus taught, and we think Glenn Beck needs to hear about it," the group [stated on its Web site](#).

Beyond Poverty

While fighting unjust conditions which cause poverty is a core task for Christians, it is not the only task.

For example, unless we do everything we can to prosecute government officials who ordered crimes against humanity (such as starting unjust wars under false pretenses and ordering widespread and indiscriminate torture), we are not fulfilling our responsibilities as Christians.

Washington's Blog [blog home](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:47 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Jeffrey F. Barr: Render Unto Caesar 1

Render Unto Caesar: A Most Misunderstood New Testament Passage

by Jeffrey F. Barr [article link](#)

March 17, 2010 LewRockwell

[Note: the many links included in the source article are not included here]

I. INTRODUCTION

Christians have traditionally interpreted the famous passage "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God, the things that are God's," to mean that Jesus endorsed paying taxes. This view was first expounded by St. Justin Martyr in Chapter XVII of his First Apology, who wrote,

And everywhere we, more readily than all men, endeavor to pay to those appointed by you the taxes both ordinary and extraordinary, as we have been taught by Him; for at that time some came to Him and asked Him, if one ought to pay tribute to Caesar; and He answered, 'Tell Me, whose image does the coin bear?' And they said, 'Caesar's.'

The passage appears to be important and well-known to the early Christian community. The Gospels of St. Matthew, St. Mark, and St. Luke recount this "Tribute Episode" nearly verbatim. Even Saying 100 of non-canonical Gospel of Thomas and Fragment 2 Recto of the Egerton Gospel record the scene, albeit with some variations from the Canon.

But by His enigmatic response, did Jesus really mean for His followers to provide financial support (willingly or unwillingly) to Tiberius Caesar – a man, who, in his personal life, was a pedophile, a sexual deviant, and a murderer and who, as emperor, claimed to be a god and oppressed and enslaved millions of people, including Jesus' own? **The answer, of course, is: the traditional, pro-tax interpretation of the Tribute Episode is simply wrong. Jesus never meant for His answer to be interpreted as an endorsement of Caesar's tribute or any taxes.**

This essay examines four dimensions of the Tribute Episode: the historical setting of the Episode; the rhetorical structure of the Episode itself; the context of the scene within the Gospels; and finally, how the Catholic Church, Herself, has understood the Tribute Episode. These dimensions point to one conclusion: the Tribute Episode does not stand for the proposition that it is morally obligatory to pay taxes.

The objective of this piece is not to provide a complete exegesis on the Tribute Episode. Rather, it is simply to show that the traditional, pro-tax interpretation of the Tribute Episode is utterly untenable. The passage unequivocally does not stand for the proposition that Jesus thought it was morally obligatory to pay taxes.

II. THE HISTORICAL SETTING: THE UNDERCURRENT OF TAX REVOLT

In 6 A.D., Roman occupiers of Palestine imposed a census tax on the Jewish people. The tribute was not well-received, and by 17 A.D., Tacitus reports in Book II.42 of the Annals, "The provinces, too, of Syria and Judaea, exhausted by their burdens, implored a reduction of tribute." A tax-revolt, led by Judas the Galilean, soon ensued. Judas the Galilean taught that "taxation was no better than an introduction to slavery," and he and his followers had "an inviolable attachment to liberty," recognizing God, alone, as king and ruler of Israel. The Romans brutally combated the uprising for decades. Two of Judas' sons were crucified in 46 A.D., and a third was an early leader of the 66 A.D. Jewish revolt. **Thus, payment of the tribute conveniently encapsulated the deeper philosophical, political, and theological issue: Either God and His divine laws were supreme, or the Roman emperor and his pagan laws were supreme.**

This undercurrent of tax-revolt flowed throughout Judaea during Jesus' ministry. All three synoptic Gospels place the episode immediately after Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem in which throngs of people proclaimed Him king, as St. Matthew states, "And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, 'Who is this?' And the crowds replied, 'This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee.'" All three agree that this scene takes place near the celebration

of the Passover, one of the holiest of Jewish feast days. Passover commemorates God's deliverance of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery and also celebrates the divine restoration of the Israelites to the land of Israel, land then-occupied by the Romans. Jewish pilgrims from throughout Judaea would have been streaming into Jerusalem to fulfill their periodic religious duties at the temple.

Because of the mass of pilgrims, the Roman procurator of Judaea, Pontius Pilate, had also temporarily taken up residence in Jerusalem along with a multitude of troops so as to suppress any religious violence. In her work, *Pontius Pilate: The Biography of an Invented Man*, Ann Wroe described Pilate as the emperor's chief soldier, chief magistrate, head of the judicial system, and above all, the chief tax collector. In Book XXXVIII of *On the Embassy to Gaius*, Philo has depicted Pilate as "cruel," "exceedingly angry," and "a man of most ferocious passions," who had a "habit of insulting people" and murdering them "untried and uncondemned" with the "most grievous inhumanity." Just a few years prior to Jesus' ministry, the image of Caesar nearly precipitated an insurrection in Jerusalem when Pilate, by cover of night, surreptitiously erected effigies of the emperor on the fortress Antonia, adjoining the Jewish Temple; Jewish law forbade both the creation of graven images and their introduction into holy city of Jerusalem. Pilate averted a bloodbath only by removing the images.

In short, Jerusalem would have been a hot-bed of political and religious fervor, and it is against this background that the Tribute Episode unfolded.

III. THE RHETORICAL STRUCTURE OF THE TRIBUTE EPISODE

[15] Then the Pharisees going, consulted among themselves how to insnare him in his speech. [16] And they sent to him their disciples with the Herodians, saying: Master, we know that thou art a true speaker and teachest the way of God in truth. Neither carest thou for any man: for thou dost not regard the person of men. [17] Tell us therefore what dost thou think? Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not? [18] But Jesus knowing their wickedness, said: Why do you tempt me, ye hypocrites? [19] Show me the coin of the tribute. And they offered him a penny [literally, in Latin, "denarium," a denarius]. [20] And Jesus saith to them: Whose image and inscription is this? [21] They say to him: Caesar's. Then he saith to them: Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God, the things that are God's. [22] And hearing this, they wondered and, leaving him, went their ways. Matt 22:15–22 (Douay-Rheims translation).

A. THE QUESTION

All three synoptic Gospels open the scene with a plot to trap Jesus. The questioners begin with, what is in their minds, false flattery – "Master [or Teacher or Rabbi] we know that you are a true speaker and teach the way of God in truth." As David Owen-Ball forcefully argues in his 1993 article, "Rabbinic Rhetoric and the Tribute Passage," this opening statement is also a challenge to Jesus' rabbinic authority; it is a halakhic question – a question on a point of religious law. The Pharisees believed that they, alone, were the authoritative interpreters of Jewish law. By appealing to Jesus' authority to interpret God's law, the questioners accomplish two goals: (1) they force Jesus to answer the question; if Jesus refuses, He will lose credibility as a Rabbi with the very people who just proclaimed Him a King; and (2) they force Jesus to base this answer in Scripture. Thus, they are testing His scriptural knowledge and hoping to discredit Him if He cannot escape a *prima facie* intractable interrogatory. As Owen-Ball states, "The gospel writers thus describe a scene in which Jesus' questioners have boxed him in. He is tempted to assume, illegitimately, the authority of a Rabbi, while at the same time he is constrained to answer according to the dictates of the Torah."

The questioners then pose their malevolently brilliant question: "Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?" That is, is it licit under the Torah to pay taxes to the Romans? At some point, Jesus must have led His questioners to believe that He opposed the tribute; otherwise His questioners would not have posed the question in the first instance. As John Howard Yoder argues in his book, *The Politics of Jesus: vicit Agnus noster*, "It is hard to see how the denarius question could have been thought by those who put it to be a serious trap, unless Jesus' repudiation of the Roman occupation were taken for granted, so that he could be expected to give an answer which would enable them to denounce him."

If Jesus says that it is lawful to pay the tribute, He would have been seen as a collaborator with the Roman occupiers and would alienate the people who had just proclaimed Him a king. If Jesus says that the tribute is illegitimate, He risked being branded a political criminal and incurring the wrath of Rome. With either answer, someone would have been likely to kill Him.

Jesus immediately recognizes the trap. He exposes the hostility and the hypocrisy of His interrogators and recognizes that His questioners are daring Him to enter the temporal fray of Judeo-Roman politics.

B. THE COIN

Instead of jumping into the political discussion, though, Jesus curiously requests to see the coin of the tribute. It is not necessary that Jesus possess the coin to answer their question. He could certainly respond without seeing the coin. That He requests to see the coin suggests that there is something meaningful about the coin itself.

In the Tribute Episode, the questioners produce a denarius. The denarius was approximately 1/10 of a troy ounce (at that time about 3.9 grams) of silver and roughly worth a day's wages for a common laborer. The denarius was a remarkably stable currency; Roman emperors did not begin debasing it with any vigor until Nero. The denarius in question would have been issued by the Emperor Tiberius, whose reign coincided with Jesus' ministry. Where Augustus issued hundreds of denarii, Ethelbert Stauffer, in his masterful, *Christ and the Caesars*, reports that Tiberius issued only three, and of those three, two are relatively rare, and the third is quite common. Tiberius preferred this third and issued it from his personal mint for twenty years. The denarius was truly the emperor's property: he used it to pay his soldiers, officials, and suppliers; it bore the imperial seal; it differed from the copper coins issued by the Roman Senate, and it was also the coin with which subjected peoples, in theory, were required to pay the tribute. Tiberius even made it a capital crime to carry any coin stamped with his image into a bathroom or a brothel. **In short, the denarius was a tangible representation of the emperor's power, wealth, deification, and subjugation.**

Tiberius' denarii were minted at Lugdunum, modern-day Lyons, in Gaul. Thus, J. Spencer Kennard, in a well-crafted, but out-of-print book entitled *Render to God*, argues that the denarius' circulation in Judaea was likely scarce. The only people to transact routinely with the denarius in Judaea would have been soldiers, Roman officials, and Jewish leaders in collaboration with Rome. **Thus, it is noteworthy that Jesus, Himself, does not possess the coin. The questioners' quickness to produce the coin at Jesus' request implies that they routinely used it, taking advantage of Roman financial largess, whereas Jesus did not.** Moreover, the Tribute Episode takes place in the Temple, and by producing the coin, the questioners reveal their religious hypocrisy – they bring a potentially profane item, the coin of a pagan, into the sacred space of the Temple.

Finally, both Stauffer and Kennard make the magnificent point that **coins of the ancient world were the major instrument of imperial propaganda, promoting agendas and promulgating the deeds of their issuers, in particular the apotheosis of the emperor.** As Kennard puts it, "For indoctrinating the peoples of the empire with the deity of the emperor, coins excelled all other media. They went everywhere and were handled by everyone. Their subtle symbolism pervaded every home." While Tiberius' propaganda engine was not as prolific as Augustus' machine, all of Tiberius' denarii pronounced his divinity or his debt to the deified Augustus.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:27 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Jeffrey F. Barr: Render Unto Caesar 2

C. THE COUNTER-QUESTION AND ITS ANSWER

After seeing the coin, Jesus then poses a counter-question, "Whose image and inscription is this?" It is again noteworthy that this counter-question and its answer are not necessary to answer the original question of whether it is licit to pay tribute to Caesar. That Jesus asks the counter-question suggests that it and its answer are significant.

(1) Why Is The Counter-Question Important?

The counter-question is significant for two reasons.

First, Owen-Ball argues that the counter-question follows a pattern of formal rhetoric common in first century rabbinic literature in which (1) an outsider poses a hostile question to a rabbi; (2) the rabbi responds with a counter-question; (3) by answering the counter-question, the outsider's position becomes vulnerable to attack; and (4) the rabbi then uses the answer to the counter-question to refute the hostile question. Jesus' use of this rhetorical form is one way to establish His authority as a rabbi, not unlike a modern lawyer who uses a formal, legal rhetoric in the courtroom. Moreover, the point of the rhetorical exchange is ultimately to refute the hostile question.

Second, because the hostile question was a direct challenge to Jesus' authority as a rabbi on a point of law, His interrogators would have expected a counter-question grounded in scripture, in particular, based upon the Torah. **Two words, "image" and "inscription," in the counter-question harkens to two central provisions in the Torah, the First (Second) Commandment and the *Shema*. These provide the scriptural basis for this question of law.**

God Prohibits False Images. The First (Second) Commandment prohibits worship of anyone or anything but God, and it also forbids crafting any image of a false god for adoration, "I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt not have strange gods before me. Thou shalt not make to thyself a graven thing, nor the likeness [image] of any thing...." God demands the exclusive allegiance of His people. Jesus' use of the word, "image," in the counter-question reminds His questioners of the First (Second) Commandment's requirement to venerate God first and its concomitant prohibition against creating images of false gods.

The *Shema* Demands The Worship Of God Alone. Jesus' use of the word "inscription" alludes to the *Shema*. The *Shema* is a Jewish prayer based upon Deuteronomy 6:4–9, 11:13–21 and Numbers 15:37–41 and is the most important prayer a pious Jew can say. It commences with the words, "*Shema Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad*," which can be translated, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God – the Lord alone." This opening line stresses Israel's worship of God to the exclusion of all other gods. The *Shema* then commands a person to love God with his whole heart, whole soul, and whole strength. The *Shema* further requires worshipers to keep the words of the *Shema* in their hearts, to instruct their children in them, to bind them on their hands and foreheads, and to inscribe them conspicuously on their doorposts and on the gates to their cities. Observant Jews take literally the command to bind the words upon their arms and foreheads and wear *tefillin*, little leather cases which contain parchment on which are inscribed certain passages from the Torah. Words of the *Shema* were to be metaphorically inscribed in the hearts, minds, and souls of pious Jews and physically inscribed on parchment in *tefillin*, on doorposts, and on city gates. St. Matthew and St. Mark both recount Jesus quoting the *Shema* in the same chapter just a few verses after the Tribute Episode. This proximity further reinforces the reference to the *Shema* in the Tribute Episode. Finally, it is noteworthy that when Satan tempts Jesus by offering Him all the kingdoms of the [Roman] world in exchange for His worship, Jesus rebukes Satan by quoting the *Shema*. In short, Jesus means to call attention to the *Shema* by using the word "inscription" in the counter-question as His appeal to scriptural authority for His response.

(2) Why Is The Answer To The Counter-Question Important?

The answer to the counter-question is significant for two reasons.

First, while the verbal answer to the counter-question of whose image and inscription the coin bears is a feeble, "Caesar's," the actual image and inscription is much more revealing. The front of the denarius shows a profiled bust of Tiberius

crowned with the laurels of victory and divinity. Even a modern viewer would immediately recognize that the person depicted on the coin is a Roman emperor. Circumscribed around Tiberius is an abbreviation, "TI CAESAR DIVI AUG F AUGUSTUS," which stands for "Tiberius Caesar Divi August Fili Augustus," which, in turn, translates, "Tiberius Caesar, Worshipful Son of the God, Augustus."

On the obverse sits the Roman goddess of peace, Pax, and circumscribed around her is the abbreviation, "Pontif Maxim," which stands for "Pontifex Maximus," which, in turn, means, "High Priest."

The coin of the Tribute Episode is a fine specimen of Roman propaganda. **It imposes the cult of emperor worship and asserts Caesar's sovereignty upon all who transact with it.**

In the most richly ironic passage in the entire Bible, all three synoptic Gospels depict the Son of God and the High Priest of Peace, newly-proclaimed by His people to be a King, holding the tiny silver coin of a king who claims to be the son of a god and the high priest of Roman peace.

The second reason the answer is significant is that in following the pattern of rabbinic rhetoric, the answer exposes the hostile questioners' position to attack. It is again noteworthy that the interrogators' answer to Jesus' counter-question about the coin's image and inscription bears little relevance to their original question as to whether it is licit to pay the tribute. Jesus could certainly answer their original question without their answer to His counter-question. But the rhetorical function of the answer to the counter-question is to demonstrate the vulnerability of the opponent's position and use that answer to refute the opponent's original, hostile question.

D. REFUTING BY RENDERING UNTO GOD

In the Tribute Episode, it is only after Jesus' counter-question is asked and answered does He respond to the original question. Jesus tells His interrogators, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God, the things that are God's." This response begs the question of what is licitly God's and what is licitly Caesar's.

In the Hebrew tradition, everything rightfully belonged to God. By using the words, "image and inscription," Jesus has already reminded His interrogators that God was owed exclusive allegiance and total love and worship. Similarly, everything economically belonged to God as well. For example, the physical land of Israel was God's, as He instructed in Leviticus 25:23, "The land [of Israel] shall not be sold in perpetuity; for the land is mine, and you [the Israelites] are but aliens who have become my tenants." In addition, the Jewish people were to dedicate the firstfruits, that first portion of any harvest and the first-born of any animal, to God. **By giving God the firstfruits, the Jewish people acknowledged that all good things came from God and that all things, in turn, belonged to God. God even declares, "Mine is the silver and mine the gold."**

The emperor, on the other hand, also claimed that all people and things in the empire rightfully belonged to Rome. The denarius notified everyone who transacted with it that the emperor demanded exclusive allegiance and, at least, the pretense of worship – Tiberius claimed to be the worshipful son of a god. Roman occupiers served as a constant reminder that the land of Israel belonged to Rome. Roman tribute, paid with Roman currency, impressed upon the populace that the economic life depended on the emperor. The emperor's bread and circuses maintained political order. The propaganda on the coin even attributed peace and tranquility to the emperor.

With one straightforward counter-question, **Jesus skillfully points out that the claims of God and Caesar are mutually exclusive.** If one's faith is in God, then God is owed everything; Caesar's claims are necessarily illegitimate, and he is therefore owed nothing. If, on the other hand, one's faith is in Caesar, God's claims are illegitimate, and Caesar is owed, at the very least, the coin which bears his image.

Jesus' counter-question simply invites His listeners to choose allegiances. Remarkably, He has escaped the trap through a clever rhetorical gambit; He has authoritatively refuted His opponents' hostile question by basing His answer in scripture, and yet, He never overtly answers the question originally posed to Him. No wonder that St. Matthew ends the Tribute Episode this way: "When they heard this they were amazed, and leaving him they went away."

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:14 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Jeffrey F. Barr: Render Unto Caesar 3

IV. THE CONTEXT IN THE GOSPELS: A TRADITION OF SUBTLE SEDITION

Subtle sedition refers to scenes throughout the Gospels which were not overtly treasonous and would not have directly threatened Roman authorities, but which delivered political messages that first century Jewish audiences would have immediately recognized. The Gospels are replete with instances of subtle sedition. Pointing these out is not to argue that Jesus saw Himself as a political king. Jesus makes it explicit in John 18:36 that He is not a political Messiah. Rather, in the context of subtle sedition, no one can interpret the Tribute Episode as Jesus' support of taxation. To the contrary, **one can only understand the Tribute Episode as Jesus' opposition to the illicit Roman taxes.**

In addition to the Tribute Episode, three other scenes from the Gospels serve as examples of subtle sedition: (1) Jesus' temptation in the desert; (2) Jesus walking on water; and (3) Jesus curing the Gerasene demoniac.

A. EMPERORS OF BREAD AND CIRCUSES

Around 200 A.D., the Roman satirist Juvenal lamented that the Roman emperors, masters of the known world, tenuously maintained political power by way of "panem et circenses," or "bread and circuses," a reference to the ancient practice of pandering to Roman citizens by providing free wheat and costly circus spectacles. Caesar Augustus, for example, boasted of feeding more than 100,000 men from his personal granary. He also bragged of putting on tremendous exhibitions:

Three times I gave shows of gladiators under my name and five times under the name of my sons and grandsons; in these shows about 10,000 men fought. * * * Twenty-six times, under my name or that of my sons and grandsons, I gave the people hunts of African beasts in the circus, in the open, or in the amphitheater; in them about 3,500 beasts were killed. I gave the people a spectacle of a naval battle, in the place across the Tiber where the grove of the Caesars is now, with the ground excavated in length 1,800 feet, in width 1,200, in which thirty beaked ships, biremes or triremes, but many smaller, fought among themselves; in these ships about 3,000 men fought in addition to the rowers.

By the time of Jesus and the reign of Tiberius Caesar, the Roman grain dole routinely fed 200,000 people.

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, the Spirit led Him into the desert "to be tempted by the devil." The devil challenged Him with three tests. First, he dared Jesus to turn stones into bread. Second, the devil took Jesus to the highest point on the temple in Jerusalem and tempted Him to cast Himself down to force the angels into a spectacular, miraculous rescue. Finally, for the last temptation, "the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, 'All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me.'"

The devil dared Jesus to be a king of bread and circuses and offered Him dominion over the whole earthly world. **These temptations are an instantly recognizable reference to the power of the Roman emperors. Jesus forcefully rejects this power. Jesus' rejection illustrates that the things of God and the things of Rome/the world/the devil are mutually exclusive.** Jesus' allegiance was to the things of God, and His rebuff of the metaphorical power of Rome is an example of subtle sedition.

B. TREADING UPON THE EMPEROR'S SEAS

At the beginning of Chapter 6 in St. John's Gospel, Jesus performs a miracle and feeds 5,000 people from five loaves of bread; He then refuses to be crowned a king of bread and circuses. Immediately thereafter, St. John recounts the episode of Jesus walking on a body of water in the middle of a storm. That body of water was the Sea of Galilee, which, St. John reminds his readers, was also known as the Sea of Tiberias. Around 25 A.D., Herod Antipas built a pagan city on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee and named it in honor of the Roman emperor, Tiberius. By Jesus' time, the city had

become so important that the Sea of Galilee came to be called the "Sea of Tiberias." **Thus, not only does Jesus refuse to be coronated a Roman king of bread and circuses, but He literally treads upon the emperor's seas, showing that even the emperor's waters have no dominion over Him.** Treading on the emperor's seas is an additional instance of subtle sedition.

C. A LEGION OF DEMONS

St. Mark details Jesus' encounter with the Gerasene demoniac in another example of subtle sedition. The territory of the Gerasenes was pagan territory, and this particular demoniac was exceptionally strong and frightening. In attempting to exorcise the demon, Jesus asked its name. The demon replied, "Legion is my name. There are many of us." Jesus then expels the demons and casts them into a herd of swine. The herd immediately drive themselves into the sea. First century readers would have been well-acquainted with the name, "Legion." At that time, an imperial legion was roughly 6,000 soldiers. Thus, the demon "Legion," an agent of the devil, was a thinly-veiled reference to the Roman occupiers of Judaea. Swine were considered unclean animals under Jewish law. The symbol of the Roman Legion which occupied Jerusalem was a boar. **The first century audience would have easily grasped the symbolism of Jesus' casting the demon Legion into the herd of unclean swine, and the herd driving itself into the sea.** Thus, the healing of the Gerasene demoniac is another example of subtle sedition.

D. TRIBUTE AS SUBTLE SEDITION

In the Tribute Episode, Jesus' response is subtly seditious. The first-century audience would have immediately apprehended what it meant to render unto God the things that are God's. They would have known that the things of God and Caesar were mutually exclusive. No Jewish listener would have mistaken Jesus' response as an endorsement of paying Caesar's taxes. To the contrary, **His audience would have understood that Jesus thought the tribute was illicit. Indeed, opposition to the tribute was one of the charges the authorities levied at His trial, "They brought charges against him, saying, 'We found this man misleading our people; he opposes the payment of taxes to Caesar and maintains that he is the Messiah, a king.'**" To the Roman audience, however, the pronouncement of rendering unto Caesar what is Caesar's sounds benign, almost supportive. It is, however, one of many vignettes of covert political protest contained in the Gospels. **In short, the Tribute Episode is a subtle form of sedition. When viewed in this context, no one can say that the Episode supports the payment of taxes.**

V. WHAT DOES THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SAY?

The Catholic Church considers Herself the authoritative interpreter of Sacred Scripture. The 1994 Catechism of the Catholic Church "is a statement of the Church's faith and of catholic doctrine, attested to or illumined by Sacred Scripture, the Apostolic Tradition, and the Church's Magisterium."

The 1994 Catechism instructs the faithful that it is morally obligatory to pay one's taxes for the common good. (What the definition of the "common good" is may be left for a different debate.) The 1994 Catechism also quotes and cites the Tribute Episode. But the 1994 Catechism does NOT use the Tribute Episode to support the proposition that it is morally obligatory to pay taxes. Instead, the 1994 Catechism refers the Tribute Episode only to justify acts of civil disobedience. **It quotes St. Matthew's version to teach that a Christian must refuse to obey political authority when that political authority makes a demand contrary to the demands of the moral order, the fundamental rights of persons, or the teachings of the Gospel.** Similarly, the 1994 Catechism also cites to St. Mark's version to instruct that a person "should not submit his personal freedom in an absolute manner to any earthly power, but only to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Caesar is not 'the Lord.'" **Thus, according to the 1994 Catechism, the Tribute Episode stands for the proposition that a Christian owes his allegiance to God and to the things of God alone.** If the Tribute Episode unequivocally supported the proposition that it is morally obligatory to pay taxes, the 1994 Catechism would not hesitate to cite to it for that position. That the 1994 Catechism does not interpret the Tribute Episode as a justification for the payment of taxes suggests that such an interpretation is not an authoritative reading of the passage. **In short, even the Catholic Church does not understand the Tribute Episode to mean that Jesus endorsed paying Caesar's taxes.**

V. CONCLUSION

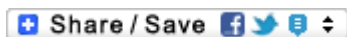
St. John's Gospel recounts the scene of a woman caught in adultery, brought before Jesus by the Pharisees so that they might "test" Him "so that they could have some charge to bring against Him." When asked, "'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say,'" Jesus appears trapped by only two answers: the strict, legally-correct answer of the Pharisees, or the mercifully-right, morally-correct, but technically-illegal answer undermining Jesus' authority as a Rabbi. Notably, Jesus never does overtly respond to the question posed to Him; instead of answering, "Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger." When pressed by His inquisitors, He finally answers, "'Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her,'" and, of course, the shamed Pharisees all leave one by one. Jesus then refuses to condemn the woman.

The scene of the woman caught in adultery and the Tribute Episode are similar. In both, Jesus is faced with a hostile question challenging His credibility as a Rabbi. In each, the hostile question has two answers: one answer which the audience knows is morally correct, but politically incorrect, and the other answer which the audience knows is wrong, but politically correct. In the scene of the woman caught in adultery, no one roots for Jesus to say, "Stone her!" Everyone wants to see Jesus extend the woman mercy. Likewise, in the Tribute Episode, no one hopes Jesus answers, "Pay tribute to the pagan, Roman oppressors!" The Tribute Episode, like the scene of the woman caught in adultery, has a "right" answer – it is not licit to pay the tribute. But Jesus cannot give this "right" answer without running afoul of the Roman government. Instead, in both Gospel accounts, Jesus gives a quick-witted, but ultimately ambiguous, response which exposes the hypocrisy of His interrogators rather than overtly answers the underlying question posed by them. Nevertheless, in each instance, the audience can infer the right answer embedded in Jesus' response.

Over the centuries, theologians, scholars, laymen, and potentates have interpreted the Tribute Episode incorrectly as Jesus' support for the payment of taxes. First, this interpretation does not square with the political climate of the times. The Tribute Episode is set in the middle of a decades-old tax-revolt against Caesar's tribute. Second, the rhetorical structure of the Tribute Episode, itself, contradicts any interpretation that Jesus supported paying taxes. Third, the Gospels contain episode after episode of subtle sedition. The Tribute Episode is just another of these subtly seditious scenes. **When seen in the context of subtle sedition, the phrase "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's," means that the emperor is owed nothing.** Finally, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the authoritative interpreter of Sacred Scripture, does not construe the Tribute Episode to support the proposition that it is morally obligatory to pay one's taxes. **Indeed, it interprets the Tribute Episode to mean the exact opposite – that Christians are obliged to disobey Caesar when Caesar's dictates violate God's law.** In sum, the pro-tax position of the Tribute Episode is not supportable historically, rhetorically, contextually, or within the confines of the Catholic Church's own understanding. As Dorothy Day is reputed to have said, "If we rendered unto God all the things that belong to God, there would be nothing left for Caesar."

Jeff Barr practices law in Las Vegas, Nevada. He received a Master's Degree in Business Administration from UNLV where he took classes from Hans-Hermann Hoppe and Murray Rothbard.

Copyright © 2010 by LewRockwell.com
LewRockwell [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:57 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

It Is Time To Burn The Strawman

For Your Consideration:

- * Take a look at your Government issued I.D., License, Birth Certificate, SSN, etc.
- * Your name is written in CAPITAL letters, ie., JOHN WILLIAM DOE.
- * That is the artificial you - the corporate you - registered at birth or upon application of a SSN or SIN (in Canada).
- * The Corporate-State/Corporations can only legally contract with another fiction, thus your "STRAWMAN", the corporate NAME, the LEGAL PERSON/TRADE NAME not with your Lawful/Christian name.
- * Under the Uniform Commercial Code, the STRAWMAN is the "transmitting utility" to access goods and services, a "dummy corporation" of one, and even though you do NOT hold Title to your STRAWMAN you are responsible for the public liability associated with the "benefits" that come to you through it.

- * All law in Americanada is Corporate-Statute Law/Admiralty Law, every organization is a for-profit corporation, incl. the Police, Law Courts, Government and registered as such (Standard and Poor's). The UNITED STATES has been a corporate legal fiction for decades.
- * All your legal documents, contracts, deeds, mortgages, bank accounts, retirement funds, etc. have your STRAWMAN name on them - that is not you in the flesh-and-blood, everything you think you own - YOU DO NOT - you have legal use because you signed your name John Doe (first letter capitalized only) on the forms, ie., your checking/chequing accounts, withdrawal slips, contracts, etc.
- * Your children do not belong to you (they have their own STRAWMAN, you gave them to the State when you registered their births), neither your house, car, etc., that is why the Corporate-State can take all from you legally, including your children - all is owned by the private-State including you. They have "Title".
- * They can enforce laws over you because they own you, even laws to protect their investment (ie., seat belts, helmets).

- * **You are "debt surety" on the National Debt** and are listed as such at the Bank for International Settlements.
- * You pay "Income Tax" on the private currency that you are allowed to earn - and once again "you" do not own your money, you are allowed to retain and use private-State Currency because it is earned/held under a STRAWMAN and you have been granted signing authority, as privilege, as-long-as you conform.
- * That dollar bill does not say the Bank of John on it - everything held in your STRAWMAN's account can be seized or withheld at any time because, once again, IT IS NOT YOURS, NO MATTER WHAT YOU THINK.
- * ALL IS CORPORATE, AND ALL THAT IS CORPORATE IS PROTECTED AND ENFORCED BY THE STATE (slaves are provided the necessities to continue working, and only that).
- * Reference Black's Law Dictionary for CAPITALIZED NAMES and their meaning.

- * As "debt surety" the private-State can create/borrow "in your name" \$30-50,000 each year, basically the same as your salary, and you and your children and your grandchildren are Federally mandated to pay Income Tax yearly to provide an economic foundation for the Debt created, partial payment ad infinitum (the Debt can never be repayed) - the average lifetime wage/salary expectation of a middle-class person working 40 years is between 1 and 2 Million dollars (+/- \$50,000/year) - you have no choice but to repay a portion of your wage/salary, as in-effect your money is not actually owned by you, and the "owners" require their cut or they will repossess everything that they own (everything you have).
- * **Trillions of Dollars can be created and your progeny are mandated as the "debt surety", perpetual slavery.**
- * With a population of 300M people the private-State (United States (Inc.)) - not the public-Nation of America - can theoretically create a Debt of 300 Million x 30 Thousand(+) Dollars each year = \$9,000,000,000,000 = \$9 Trillion Dollars, economic performance and/or necessity being a factor in creating a Debt of this magnitude.
- * "The Powers That Be" thus can bail-out their criminality with change to spare, knowing the Systemic can absorb the debt as-long-as the public do not catch on to the mechanisms of control - the private creation of capital/national currency - ALL ON THE BACKS OF THE POPULATION IN WHO'S NAME (STRAWMAN) IT IS CREATED, AND REMEMBER, YOUR ASSET VALUE IS ACTUALLY THEIRS AND TABULATED AS SUCH.

- * WE CREATE THE VERY MONIES WE SLAVE AWAY TO "EARN" FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PRIVATE OWNERS: The private-State borrows from a private-Corporation (The Federal Reserve System who "creates" the monies "in your name") and pays interest on the debt.
- * Public-Money (Interest Free) created by the public-Nation (actual Greenbacks) would begin to remove the control of the Private from the Nation and Community - the interface between the public-Nation and the private-State, our selected-to-be-elected Government has to be purged of the Corporate, the private-State rescinded and the public-Nation reinstated, the re-birth of the American and Canadian Nations (essentially one family, brothers).
- * The created and fashioned Monetary Crisis is manipulated to ensure absolute control for acquisition and globalization. Fear runs wild on Main Street while in the back rooms of Wall Street all is well - the wage-slaves underwriting the systemic.
- * Other Nations "buy the debt" (as an investment, or by necessity) because the "economic engine" (that's you) will continue to run - population must be maintained or increased so that STRAWMAN issued debt and repayment (Federal Income Tax) can be maintained.
- * To take back your sovereignty, to take possession of your STRAWMAN is near impossible, an Enemy of the State is not too kindly looked upon - some have achieved partial success - stories vary. You would negate any "citizenship" benefits if you were able to.
- * The "Game" being played, and its threats/repercussions of deflation/inflation/hyper-inflation are cruel with very real public impact - lives have been, are, and will be destroyed.
- * **Again, money is NOT created out-of-thin-air, it cannot be, you enable the money to be created - YOU CREATE THE MONEY - it is STRAWMAN issued, and you guarantee it as "debt-surety".** We partially recognize this by taking out a car loan, mortgage, etc. Our "debt-servitude" is the "Bond", the debt-security, a life-time of labor.
- * You are the "precious metal" backing the currency, your "metal" (your strength of character, your tenacity, your work ethic/need), the collective Human "Resources" of the Nation.
- * The purposeful, temporary partial-destruction of the "middle-class" has been determined as the best way to achieve Global Control. As the "debt-surety" is negated so to the value of the US Dollar, precipitating the needed world crisis. Total collapse is not the objective - absolute ownership and consolidation is - the Economic Union of the US and Canada being a chief aim with the collective Natural Resources then partially underpinning the State currency to replace the lost STRAWMAN surety - Corporate Raiding at its finest. This is NOT Big Government gaining control of the corporations, this is Big Corporate in control of the Government.
- * The growing "middle-class" of the more easily manipulated Asian economies who were seeded with the jobs transferred out of North America and Europe are the added "debt-surety" for the New Economy - thus global enslavement achieved.

Total disinvestment, systemic withdrawal, and repudiation of the "odious" debt is the only way to undermine and collapse this systemic. We must be preparing and prepared to accommodate the many displaced. **The issue of public-monies by the public-Nation is an essential step but in the meantime, or in tandem with, community or regional currencies should be implemented.** THE SLAVES MUST RISE IN NON-VIOLENT REVOLUTION (FIGURATIVELY BURNING THEIR STRAWMEN), AND TAKE BACK THEIR LIVES !!

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [m](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:32 PM](#) [0 comments](#) [✉](#)

The Social Meaning of the Lord's Prayer

Walter Rauschenbusch was a key figure in the 'social gospel' movement in N America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A Baptist minister who from working in the 'hell's kitchen' of New York saw that the gospel requires radical social and political transformation. **The kingdom of God is a model for a society based on the Christian principles of equal rights and democratic distribution of economic power.**

The Social Meaning of the Lord's Prayer

Walter Rauschenbusch (1861-1918)

Rochester, New York State

The Lord's Prayer is recognized as the purest expression of the mind of Jesus Christ. It crystallizes his thoughts. It conveys the atmosphere of his trust in the Father. It gives proof of the transparent clearness and peace of his soul.

It first took shape as a protest against the worldly flattery with which men tried to influence or persuade their gods. **He demanded simplicity and sincerity in all expressions of religion, and offered this as an example of the straightforwardness with which men might deal with their Father.** Hence the brevity and conciseness of it:

"In prayer use not vain repetitions, as the Gentiles do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not therefore like unto them for your Father knoweth what things you have need of before you ask him.

After this manner pray ye:

Our Father who art in heaven
Hallowed by thy name
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors
And bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."
Matthew 6:7-13 (American Revision)

The Lord's Prayer is so familiar to us that few have stopped to understand it. The general tragedy of misunderstanding which has followed Jesus Christ throughout the centuries has frustrated the purpose of his model prayer also. He gave it to stop vain repetitions, and it has been turned into a contrivance for incessant repetition. The churches have employed it for their ecclesiastical ritual. Yet it is not ecclesiastical. **There is no hint in it of the Church, the ministry, the doctrines of theology, or the sacraments.**

It has also been used for the devotions of the personal religious life. It is, indeed, profoundly personal. **But its *deepest significance* for the individual is revealed only when he dedicates his personality to the vaster purposes of the Kingdom of God, and approaches all his personal problems from that point of view.** Then he enters both into the real meaning of the Lord's Prayer, and into the spirit of the Lord himself.

The Lord's Prayer is part of the heritage of social Christianity which has been appropriated by men who have had little sympathy with its social spirit. It belongs to the equipment of the soldiers of the Kingdom of God. **It is the great charter of all social prayers.**

When he bade us say, "Our Father," Jesus spoke from that consciousness of human solidarity which was a matter of course in all his thinking. He compels us to clasp hands in spirit with all our brothers and thus to approach the Father together. **Before God no man stands alone.** Before the All-seeing he is surrounded by the spiritual throng of all to whom he stands related, near and far, all whom he loves or hates, whom he serves or oppresses, whom he wrongs or saves. **We are one with our fellow-men in all our needs. We are one in our sin and our salvation.** To recognize that *oneness* is the first step toward praying the Lord's Prayer aright. That recognition is also the foundation of social Christianity.

The three petitions with which the prayer begins express the great desire which was fundamental in the heart and mind of Jesus: **"Hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth."** Together they express his yearning faith in the possibility of a reign of God on earth in which his name shall be hallowed and his will be done. **They look forward to the ultimate perfection of the common life of humanity on this earth, and pray for the divine revolution which is to bring that about.**

There is no request here that we be saved from earthliness and go to heaven which has been the great object of churchly religion. **We pray here that heaven may be duplicated on earth through the moral and spiritual transformation of humanity, *both* in its personal units and its corporate life.** No form of religion has ever interpreted this prayer aright which did not have a loving understanding for the plain daily relations of men, and a living faith in their possible spiritual nobility.

And no man has outgrown the crude selfishness of religious immaturity who has not followed Jesus in setting this desire for **the social salvation of mankind** ahead of all personal desires. The desire for the Kingdom of God precedes and outranks everything else in religion, and forms the tacit presupposition of all our wishes for ourselves. In fact, no one has a clear right to ask for bread for his body or strength for his soul, unless he has identified his will with this all-embracing purpose of God, and intends to use the vitality of body and soul in the attainment of that end.

With that understanding we can say that the remaining petitions deal with personal needs. Among these the prayer for the daily bread takes first place. Jesus was never as "spiritual" as some of his later followers. He never forgot or belittled the elemental need of men for bread. The fundamental place which he gives to this petition is a recognition of the economic basis of life. But he lets us pray only for the bread that is needful, and for that only when it becomes needful. The conception of what is needful will expand as human life develops. **But this prayer can never be used to cover luxuries that debilitate, nor accumulations of property that can never be used but are sure to curse the soul of the holder with the diverse diseases of mammonism.**

In this petition, too, Jesus compels us to stand together. **We have to ask in common for our daily bread. We sit at the common table in God's great house, and the supply of each depends on the security of all.** The more society is socialized, the clearer does that fact become, and the more just and humane its organization becomes, the more will that recognition be at the bottom of all our institutions. **As we stand thus in common, looking up to God for our bread, every one of us ought to feel the sin and shame of it if he habitually takes more than his fair share and leaves others hungry that he may surfeit. It is inhuman, irreligious, and indecent.**

The remaining petitions deal with the spiritual needs. Looking backward, we see that our lives have been full of sin and failure, and we realize the need of forgiveness. Looking forward, we tremble at the temptations that await us and pray for deliverance from evil. In these prayers for the inner life, where the soul seems to confront God alone, we should expect to find only individualistic religion. But even here the social note sounds clearly.

This prayer will not permit us to ask for God's forgiveness without making us affirm that we have forgiven our brothers and are on a basis of brotherly love with all men: "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." We shall have to be socially right if we want to be religiously right. **Jesus will not suffer us to be pious toward God and merciless toward men.**

In the prayer, "Lead us not into temptation," we feel the human trembling of fear. Experience has taught us our frailty. Every man can see certain contingencies just a step ahead of him and knows that his moral capacity for resistance would collapse hopelessly if he were placed in these situations. Therefore Jesus gives voice to our inarticulate plea to God not to bring us into such situations.

But such situations are created largely by the social life about us. **If the society in which we move is rank with alcoholism and drug abuse, or full of the suggestiveness and solicitations of sexual permissiveness; if our business life is such that we have to lie and cheat and be cruel in order to live and prosper; if our political organization offers an ambitious man the alternative of betraying the public good or of being thwarted and crippled in all his efforts, then the temptations are created in which men go under, and society frustrates the prayer we utter to God. No**

church can interpret this petition intelligently which closes its mind to the debasing or invigorating influence of the spiritual environment furnished by society. No man can utter this petition without conscious or unconscious hypocrisy who is helping to create the temptations in which other are sure to fall.

The words "Deliver us from the evil one" have in them the ring of battle. They bring to mind the incessant grapple of the choice between God and the influencing and malignant powers of evil in the minds and lives of humanity. To the men of the first century that meant Satan and his host of evil spirits who ruled in the oppressive, extortionate, and idolatrous powers of Rome. **Today the original spirit of that prayer will probably be best understood by those who are pitted against the terrible powers of organized covetousness and institutionalized oppression.**

Thus the Lord's Prayer is the great prayer of social Christianity, [of the Church of God]. It is charged with what we call "social consciousness." **It assumes the social solidarity of men as a matter of course.** It recognizes the social basis of all moral and religious life even in the most intimate personal relations to God. [It recognizes the communitarian gospel.]

It is not the property of those who chief religious aim is to pass through an evil world in safety, leaving the world's evil unshaken. **Its dominating thought is the moral and religious transformation of mankind in *all* its social relations.** It was left to us by Jesus Christ, the great initiator of the Christian revolution; and it is the rightful property of those who follow his banner in the conquest of the world.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:07 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monday, March 15, 2010

[Needless Death: Non-systemic, Expendable Humanity](#)

MM Book 1 Chapter 3-15

What we *do* unto "our fellow-man" we *do* unto God [our being and doing], and what we do unto ourselves we do unto God also: **selfishness is an evil that must be overcome, our self-prejudice, individually and group !!** – family, marriage and parenthood are a sacrifice of self (and by thus, we understand God): God sacrificed for us, and we must do the same: we are all one human family, soon to be God-family !! — social support, affiliative behaviour begins with family and friends – we must be more befriending, more Christ-like; who we are is indicated by the quality of our friends and friendships – we must be an unselfish gift, freely giving at all times: support/edification – what you are, I AM, what I AM, you shall be [Isa 45:7 "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD (JEHOVAH, "the *existing* One") do all these things"] – **** WE WORSHIP GOD BY LOVING OUR FELLOW MAN **** – our future is not in our selfish groupings, it is *in* God, "being" within HIS *EXISTING* ONE FAMILY !! – our "being and doing" must be *as* God, NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION, OF OUR HEALING !! – GOD WILL HEAL OUR SPIRITUAL ILLNESS AND THE SPIRITUAL DAMAGE WE HAVE INFLICTED !!

MM Book 1 Chapter 3-16

Genocide: a problem from hell, a creation of it [the eradication of the other, an absolute negation] – "genocide" word origin 1944, in answer to Churchill's "we are in the presence of a crime without a name" – the penalty, cost for "bystanding" must be increased: we have a moral obligation to stop genocide, to intervene even in the face of adversity – **our selfish interests should not come into consideration, our "national and self-prejudices" must be overcome [the slow death of non-systemic, expendable humanity, and of our humanity defines "genocide" also (between 30-50 million needless deaths per year worldwide: deaths of poverty, preventable disease, pollution, conflict, etc., 20,000 die of chronic malnutrition alone, each-and-every day, that's over seven million deaths every year)]; the genocidal politico-business systemic that enables our selfishness, that enforces and excuses it, even expects and demands it !! – this world must be stopped;** war is murder, you cannot legalize it, war is criminal, especially war as excuse; WE HAVE NO RIGHT !! – we are a war society, our whole systemic-being is adversarial, every aspect of "our"-selves !! – MONEY IS THE DEVIL'S

WEAPON, OUR FALSE GOD, and we bow down to it every moment of our lives; it is our excuse, selfishness manifested; we are immersed in the evil, we wallow in the filth; we don't grasp it, it grasps us, holds us; the store is open 24/7 and we are satiated !! — this is all we know, we need a new teacher [Christ]; words of blood and thunder or the Word of God, a still, small voice – our lives are in each other, we **are** each other; WE DO NOT EXIST ALONE !! – WE MUST OVERCOME; IT IS NOT A MATTER OF BRAVERY, WE HAVE NO CHOICE – **WE WILL CEASE TO EXIST OTHERWISE !!**

MM Addendum 1-20

Confidence is faith in-and-of one's self; we must achieve self-confidence and confidence in/of-and-with God(-Family) – **there is no greater enemy than one's own fears (real or imagined)** – our fears will be/are manipulated/controlled by our would-be protectors/saviors, the very same who created/produced the very systemic to which we are so inured; their/its fears have become/are our fears, yet they/it fear us the most – **the banality of evil, our complicity, our sin, must be recognized and repented of; only then will we be response-able.**

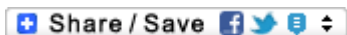
Each and every Human Being is essential to, and for, the survival of the Human Race; the SAGE Agenda will ensure the elimination of the “systemic unneeded” as a resultant; the very survival of the majority of Humankind is threatened; this is Holocaust on a massive scale, systemic extermination (as previously exemplified in Russia/Germany pre-/during WWII, and as preliminarily exemplified in today's world: **30-50M needless deaths/yr., one sacrificial death per 1MS of world economy (to maintain value and markets); to extrapolate further, 1000 Human Beings die/are sacrificed each and every year to maintain the value held by one Billionaire**); SAGE authority is considered supra-divine, as Messianic, as binding/bound in Heaven as-well-as on Earth; the SAGE are beyond consideration and examination by the vulgar; Mammon's systemic/mechanisms ensure and enforce privacy and compliance; the “Bilderberg Meetings”, previously private, are now a vulgarization for public focus/consumption, seeming “approval at large”.

MM Book 1 Chapter 3 [web page](#) (widescreen)

MM Book 1 [blog home](#)

MM Addendum 1 [web page](#) (widescreen)

MM Addendum 1 and 2 [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:04 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Monday, March 15, 2010

Justin Frewen: The Old Evils

Growing global inequality presents a major obstacle in the fight against poverty. Redistributing resources more fairly requires a greater cooperation between governments that eschews the current 'cut-throat' nature of international free trade competition, says Justin Frewen.

The 'Old' Evils of Poverty, Hunger and Inequality

by Justin Frewen [article link](#)

12th February 2010 - Published by Share The World's Resources

While poverty and hunger are frequently in the news, the reality of inequality tends to be ignored or at best downplayed. However, in the early 1950s, the first UN resolutions on development focused on inequality rather than poverty. Unfortunately, this decline of interest in inequality is not an indication of any improvement in global equality.

According to the 1996 UNDP Human Development Report (HDR), **the period 1960 to 1991 saw the richest 20% increase their share of global income from 70% to 85% while that of the poorest 20% declined from 2.3% to 1.4%.** (UNDP HDR, 1996, 13) **In spite of an exponential expansion in world trade, 86% of global income went to the 20% of the world's population living in 'developed' countries.** Bill Gates, Warren Buffett and Paul Allen, the world's three wealthiest individuals had total assets of US\$156bn, a figure in excess of the combined GNP of the 43 least developed countries, home to over 600 million people.

The first decade of the twenty-first century has provided few signs that these staggering levels of inequality will be reduced anytime in the near future. The 2008 United Nations University-WIDER report revealed that over half of all global assets were the property of the richest 2%, with 40% owned by the top 1% and 85% by the top decile (10%). Meanwhile the poorest 50% had to make do with a paltry 1% of total global wealth. On average, the richest 10% enjoyed 3,000 times the accumulated wealth of those in the bottom 10%. While 1.2 billion people are obliged to survive on US\$1.25 a day, there are almost 500 billionaires worldwide.

However, such extreme inequality does not only exist between different states. It is also an issue of increasing domestic concern as state level trends in inequality are far from encouraging. As the 2005 UNDP HDR reported:

While income gaps between countries account for the lion's share of global inequality, income disparities within many countries rival in scale the inequalities in global income distribution. In Brazil the poorest 10% of the population account for 0.7% of national income, and the richest 10% for 47%. Inequalities within Sub-Saharan Africa are also very large. In Zambia, for example, the ratio of the income of the richest to the poorest 10% is 42:1.

Approximately 80% of global citizens live in states with rising income differentials against a mere 4% where they are contracting. This trend holds true for states experiencing significant or negligible economic growth both in the North (Northern Hemisphere) and South (Southern Hemisphere). **Perhaps the most striking example of increasing inequality in the North is the US, where between 1973 and 2005 the richest 0.01% saw their incomes rise by 250% at the same time as the bottom 90% experienced a real average income fall of 11%.**

Nevertheless, shocking though these statistics are, disparity in the most unequal nation of them all, Brazil, is still inferior to that between different states.

It would appear that the world's bounty is increasingly being consumed by an ever smaller proportion of our planet's inhabitants as the vast majority is virtually reduced to living off their scraps.

It is therefore hard to argue with the global sociologist, Jan Nederveen Pietersee, when he writes as to how the:

Overall discrepancies in income and wealth are now vast to the point of being grotesque. The discrepancies in livelihoods across the world are so large that they are without historical precedent and without conceivable justification — economic, moral or otherwise... The growth of extreme poverty coincides with an explosion of wealth over the same time period.

However, while this might be true, what effect, if any, does inequality have on peoples' lives and their societies?

At the international level, perhaps the clearest indication of the effects of global inequality can be seen in the differing rates of life expectancy and mortality rates. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) a child born in Afghanistan in 2004 had a life expectancy of 42 years, in Botswana and Zambia 40 years, and in Sierra Leone only 39 years. On the other hand, those fortunate enough to be born in Canada or France had on average 80 years to experience the world, an Australian or Swede 81, and a Japanese child 82 years. Even Ireland, at the lower end of the 'developed' world in this category might hope for 78 years, the same as the US or Cuba.

In terms of child mortality, the consequences of inequality are also evident. Being born in Sweden rather than Swaziland meant a baby had a 30 times greater chance of making it to five. Similarly, a Canadian child was 17 times more likely to reach the age of five than a Cambodian child.

Such global inequality presents a major obstacle in the fight against poverty. It is simply not possible to effectively tackle poverty by relying solely on improving economic performance. The problem of socio-economic inequality has to be openly recognised and tackled. Failure to adopt such an approach will result in the gains from economic development flowing into the coffers of the wealthier sections of the population, leaving the poor as badly off as ever.

Furthermore, the reduction of absolute poverty in itself without a corresponding decrease in inequality or relative poverty would hardly be a satisfactory outcome. Inequality tends to play a significant role in the marginalisation of relatively poorer people.

Inequalities in education, employment, health, social and political participation can all bring about increased poverty and marginalisation. The UN's Report on the World's Social Situation 2005 – 'The Inequality Predicament' – stresses the role of inequality in creating social breakdown. Higher rates of inequality impact negatively on overall social cohesion and the general well-being of a state's citizens. In a detailed study of rich market democracies 'The Impact of Inequality', Richard G. Wilkinson demonstrates that more equal societies have relatively lower rates of homicide and violence as well as superior life expectancy and health standards.

However, there are still those who oppose efforts to reduce inequality – or more correctly increase equality – as being detrimental to freedom. They claim that such a policy inhibits the ability of individuals to realise their innate potential to become a successful entrepreneur, lawyer or whatever. In reality, the opposite is true. In addition to helping move people out of poverty, real equality would emphasise the possibility of individual development by providing people with sufficient resources to enable them do so.

Nor should we tolerate the idea that inequality is morally acceptable while the market works its magic, as argued by those who adhere to the belief that the answer to inequality lies in an improved global trading system. Similarly, it is imperative that we reject the fatalistic contention that inequality is one of those incontrovertible realities, impervious to correction.

Given the unprecedented levels of international inequality, it is clear that there will be a need for some form of redistribution policy in favour of greater equality. Such a reallocation of resources in favour of the poorer sections of our global community would reap enormous gains in tackling the scourges of hunger and malnutrition.

Indeed, the need for redistribution has been widely acknowledged by global development institutions. Even the World Bank in its 2006 World Development Report (WDR) – 'Equity and Development' – recognised the need for the implementation of redistribution policies.

However, just how such a redistribution of resources might come about is not an easy task. Firstly, it would be imperative to obtain international collaboration and commitment, a task of leviathan proportions in itself. Secondly, there would need to be a move towards a more cooperative and equitable approach to global affairs along with a corresponding reduction in the current 'cut-throat' nature of international free-trade competition.

Crucially, these developments would necessitate either the freely given cooperation of commercial interests, particularly major transnationals or, should this not be forthcoming, the introduction of enforceable new regulations to curb their operations and influence. It is hard, though, to imagine such a shift in the tectonic plates of international commerce anytime in the near future, given the economic power and political leverage of major international corporations.

It is, however, worth noting that despite the general increase in inequality globally, 12 of the Latin American countries for which there was sufficient data, experienced a decline in inequality between 2000 and 2006. This rise in equality was directly due to the adoption of redistributive policies, in particular the closing of the earnings gap between skilled and low-skilled workers and the increased in government transfers to the poor.

Although it is difficult to imagine a global redistribution programme obtaining international agreement in the short term, **there are still egalitarian policies that can be implemented in the meantime.** As the philosopher Thomas Pogge has highlighted certain advances in equality can be achieved independent on resource redistribution. **There are many policy measures such as the relief of poverty, nutritional improvement and local community empowerment, for example, that would help to increase equality.**

Finally, it is incorrect to look at inequality as being solely an issue concerning the poor. On the contrary, it is intrinsically connected with and cannot be dissociated from either wealth or poverty as both are fundamental elements of the one system. **In order to correct this system and eliminate the gross inequality existing today, the present economic system may need to be reformed in its entirety.**

Justin Frewen is a freelance journalist and has worked as a Consultant with the UN since 1997. He is also currently a PhD candidate in Political Science at the University of Galway.

This is an edited version of an article that originally appeared on Politico.ie.

Share The World's Resources [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:50 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Kamran Mofid: Is Ethical Capitalism Possible?

In response to the current ecological and financial crises, the call for a more sustainable and fairer globalization is gaining momentum. Building this alternative must begin with a spiritual, moral and ethical understanding of our society and economy.

Is Ethical Capitalism Possible?

by Kamran Mofid [article link](#) [article link](#)

Published on Monday, March 15, 2010 by Share the World's Resources (STWR)

We live in a time of transition, a time when all is changing and being challenged - weather systems, ecosystems, our interaction with nature, our understanding of other beings. **We now understand that we are all interconnected and interdependent. Somewhere along the line, our actions as human beings have created enormous instability to the planet and the millions of species who reside here.**

Much of which is familiar to us and deemed the 'norm' is no longer working and is being challenged. Sometimes change brings with it destruction. Sometimes destruction is beneficial. It can alert us to practices that do not work. With destruction also comes new birth, and new avenues open wide to be explored. **There are many choices as to which route to take; the issue is which route is the one that will provide life for all.** The golden opportunity presented by the current ongoing crises is to make the right choices that will affect the long term future for us, our descendants and our planet.

There is no denying the fact that we are in a serious state of crises, a crises of our own making, all of us and not the bankers alone. They responded to what we wanted: cheap, available, unregulated money and loads of it.

They in turn were responding to the neo-liberal agenda of the so-called Washington Consensus: Privatisation, deregulation, market forces, liberalisation, low taxation, free trade, and one glove fits all policies and more. No regards, no respect for different cultures, civilisations, religions and history. What is good for America and the West, then, must also be good for everybody else, regardless of all other factors, we were told again and again.

The tragedy is that we have now discovered that what we were pushing on others, which we thought was good for us - the so-called market-forces driven Anglo-Saxon model of capitalism - was nothing but a huge cancerous cell which at the end brought the house of cards down. The emperor has no clothes, so to say.

What to Do Now?

The current global economic crisis is deeply complex and perplexing. Many world politicians, business people, academics, activists, and civil society representatives, as well as religious and spiritual leaders, have called for a new kind of **"ethical capitalism"** - a moral, spiritual and virtuous economy. **People everywhere are calling for an international framework of standards for an equitable and sustainable global economy to replace the current economic system of unbridled growth and increasing ecological degradation.** While some look for quick short-term solutions that would perpetuate the current economic model, others see the need for more fundamental changes of the model itself. Our challenge is great. In a time of continuing crisis and polarizing viewpoints, can the world agree on an ethical approach to the global economy?

I propose a comprehensive examination of the major attempts to integrate economics with ethics and spirituality, along with an exploration of the theoretical underpinnings of these activities. In considering the need for bold economic initiatives, we must keep in mind the deeper questions that rarely find their way into political debate or public discourse.

We should explore the emerging economic issues as well matters that are deeply ethical and spiritual:

- * What is the source of true happiness and well-being? What is the good life?
- * What is the purpose of economic life? What does it mean to be a human being living on a spaceship with finite resources?
- * How can the global financial system become more responsive and just?
- * How can the world make the global trade system more equitable and sustainable?
- * What paths can be recommended to shift the current destructive global political-economic order from one of unrestrained economic growth, profit maximisation and cost minimisation, to one that embraces material wealth creation, yet also preserves and enhances social and ecological well-being and increases human happiness and contentment?
- * How can society overcome poverty and scarcity with limited natural resources?
- * How should we deal with individual and institutionalized greed?
- * What are the requirements of a virtuous economy?
- * What religious or spiritual variables should be considered in economic/business ethics and economic behaviour?
- * How are these components to be integrated with economic theories and decisions?
- * What role should universities play in building an integrity-based model of business education?
- * What should be the role of the youth?
- * How might the training of young executives be directed with the intention of supplying insights into the nature of globalisation from its economic, technological and spiritual perspectives, to build supporting relationships among the participants that will lead toward action for the common good within their chosen careers?
- * Indeed, is ethical, profitable, efficient and sustainable capitalism possible?

These questions and more need to be reflected upon, debated, and ultimately, answered and put into policy formation, guiding us to a more humane globalisation.

A concrete framework for understanding what has gone wrong and possible remedies, including both broad perspectives on policies and specific recommendations, must include not only an economic perspective, but also a spiritual, moral and ethical understanding.

Steps can be taken towards a sustainable economy, to turn the current crisis of casino capitalism into an opportunity for a successful, sustainable and everlasting change, where all people, wherever they may be, can live fulfilling, healthy, and yet more ecologically compatible lives.

Here are the steps I suggest:

1. Begin a Journey to Wisdom

Economics and business are all about human well-being in society and cannot be separated from moral, ethical and spiritual considerations. The idea of an economics which is value-free is totally false. Nothing in life is morally neutral. In the end, economics cannot be separated from a vision of what it is to be a human being in society.

In order to arrive at such understanding, my first recommendation must surely be for us to begin a journey to wisdom, by embodying the core values of the Golden Rule (Ethic of Reciprocity): "Do unto others as you would have them to do to you". This in turn will prompt us on a journey of discovery, giving life to what many consider to be the most consistent moral teaching throughout history.

It should be noted that the Golden Rule can be found in many religions, ethical systems, spiritual traditions, indigenous cultures and secular philosophies. Applying this universal principle can provide an enabling mechanism for the dialogue and development essential to resolving the challenges we face globally, nationally, and locally.

2. Now is the Time for a Revolution in Economic Thought

"An economist who is only an economist cannot be a good economist". Therefore, the focus of economics should be on the benefit and bounty that the economy produces, how to let this bounty increase, and how to share the benefits justly among the people for the common good.

Moreover, economic investigation should be accompanied by research into subjects such as anthropology, philosophy, politics and most importantly, theology, to give insight into our own human mystery, as no economic theory or no economist can say who we are, where have we come from or where we are going to. **Humankind must be respected as the centre of creation and not relegated to short-term economic interests, as has been the case for the past few centuries.**

3. Don't Repair the Economy, Change It

The current financial meltdown is the result of under-regulated markets built on an ideology of free market capitalism and unlimited economic growth. **The fundamental problem is that the underlying assumptions of this ideology are not consistent with what we now know about the real state of the world.** The financial world is, in essence, a set of markers for goods, services, and risks in the real world and when those markers are allowed to deviate too far from reality, "adjustments" must ultimately follow and crisis and panic can ensue.

To solve this and future financial crises requires that we reconnect the markers with reality. What are our real assets and how valuable are they? **To undertake this readjustment requires both a new vision of what the economy is and what it is for, proper and comprehensive accounting of real assets, and new institutions that use the market in its proper role as servant rather than master.** We have to first remember that the goal of the economy is to sustainably improve

human well-being and quality of life, not the promotion of materialism, consumerism and "shop till you drop" values - especially when they are done with borrowed money!

Ultimately we have to create a new model of the economy and development that acknowledges this holistic context and vision. **This new model of development would be based clearly on the goal of sustainable human well-being.** It would use measures of progress that clearly acknowledge this goal. It would acknowledge the importance of ecological sustainability, social fairness and real economic efficiency.

Ecological sustainability implies recognising that natural and social capital are not infinitely substitutable for built and human capital, and that real biophysical limits exist to the expansion of the market economy.

Social fairness implies recognising that the distribution of wealth is an important determinant of social capital and quality of life. The conventional model has bought into the assumption that the best way to improve welfare is through growth in marketed consumption as measured by GDP. This focus on growth has not improved overall societal welfare, which is why explicit attention to distribution issues is sorely needed.

4. Recognise That the Economy Is Part of the Biosphere

A comprehensive economic plan must be based on the scientific fact that the global economy is a subsidiary of the natural order. Economic policies should be attuned to the limited capacity of Earth's biosphere to provide for humans and other life and to assimilate their waste. Photosynthesis and sunlight are as essential to the framework for economic budgets and expenditures as the laws of supply and demand.

5. Acknowledge That We Need New Institutions

An economic renewal tailored to the 21st century would establish institutions committed to fitting the human economy to Earth's limited life-support capacity. We need something like the central reserve banks which will look after shares of the Earth's ecological capacity, not just interest rates and the money supply. Money should be recognised as a social licence for using part of Earth's life-support capacity. Some functions of governance will have to operate at a global level through a federation modelled perhaps on the European Union, with enforceable laws designed to assure that individual nations don't overrun Earth's limits. The rules for the developed countries that are responsible for the current ecological crisis should be different from those of developing ones.

6. Fairness Matters

A "right" human-Earth relationship would recognise humans as part of an interdependent web of life on a finite planet. The economy must recognise the rights of the human poor and of millions of other species to their place in the sun. In a world awash in money, addressing poverty only with growth reflects a tragic lack of moral imagination. Indeed, in pushing for more "free" trade as it is currently understood, we would entrench an ongoing addiction to consumption, pursued in a manner that often ravages the bio-productivity of developing countries.

7. Expand the Discussion

The new knowledge that will forever mark this period in human history is the overwhelming scientific evidence that we are over-consuming the planet and accelerating toward ecological catastrophe. The short-term approaches of most ministers of finance and professional economists don't account for how the planet works, or even that the economy exists on a finite planet. Scientists morally committed to protecting the global commons and researching ecological limits to the global economy need more funding and influence in policy-making.

8. Look beyond Neoliberal Education and Short-Term Fixes

We must begin a serious debate on the role of education and what education is all about. **We must greatly increase investment in educational and civic institutions that teach that we are not "consumers," but citizens of the Earth**

and guardians of life's prospects on a small, beautiful and finite planet. In today's largely decadent, money-driven world, the teaching of virtue and building of character is no longer part of the curriculum at many of our universities around the world. The pursuit of virtue has been replaced by moral neutrality - the idea that anything goes. For centuries it had been considered that universities were responsible for the moral and social development of students and for bringing together diverse groups for the common good.

Given the above, it is clear that **we need a new economic model**, enabling us to deal with new challenges, rather than rescuing and bailing out a discredited and bankrupt model, philosophy and theory.

The long-term solution to the financial crisis is therefore to move beyond the "growth at all costs" economic model to a model that recognises the real costs and benefits of growth. We can break our addiction to fossil fuels, over-consumption, and the current economic model and create a more sustainable and desirable future that focuses on quality of life rather than merely quantity of consumption.

It will not be easy; it will require a new vision, new measures, and new institutions. It will require a redesign of our entire society. But it is not a sacrifice of quality of life to break this addiction. Quite the contrary, it is a sacrifice not to.

© 2010 Share The World's Resources

Kamran Mofid is the Founder of the [Globalisation for the Common Good Initiative](#) (Oxford, 2002), Co- founder/Editor of [Journal of Globalisation for the Common Good](#) and a member of the International Coordinating Committee of the World Public Forum, Dialogue of Civilisations.

Share The World's Resources [home page](#)
CommonDreams [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:30 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Joseph Farah: Social Issues, Fascism, Political Spectrum

All issues are 'social issues'

by Joseph Farah [article link](#)

Between The Lines, WorldNet Daily Exclusive Commentary

Posted: March 15, 2010

Just as many Americans don't understand the left-right political spectrum extends from totalitarian government control on the left to anarchy on the right [article follows below], there's much confusion over the phony divide between "economic issues" and "social issues."

A story in last week's edition of [Politico](#) attempts to stir up conflict between what it calls the "evangelical right" and the tea-party movement. I am certain it will be the first of many like it in media determined to see an end to both movements.

"A reeling economy and the massive bank bailout and stimulus plan were the triggers for a resurgence in support for the Republican Party and the rise of the tea-party movement," explains Politico's Ben Smith. "But they've also banished the social issues that are the focus of many evangelical Christians to the background."

The story goes on to say the tea-party groups "eschew social issues."

We have become conditioned to hearing that "social issues" are abortion and the gender-bending agenda. However, I would like to make the case that **all political issues are, in fact, "social issues."** And just as those entering the political fray as tea partiers should recognize this, so must the traditional "conservatives" who have focused their attention on abortion and gender-bending.

I have some familiarity with both camps.

The problem both have is not always seeing the forest for the trees.

America is not just in trouble because government no longer respects the sanctity of life.

America is not just in trouble because government no longer respects the sanctity of marriage.

America is not just in trouble because government is spending more money than it has.

America is not just in trouble because government is redistributing wealth.

America is in trouble because government is doing all of these things and more to exceed the strict limits of its constitutional authority.

And, America is in trouble because government has, to paraphrase Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, "forgotten God."

These are the two principles that unite the vast majority of the tea-party movement with the more traditional "conservative" movement and especially those who are devoted to the sanctity of life and family.

There's no divide here.

There's only a divide if we create one.

And if we create one – or allow our enemies to create one – then America will return to business as usual, and the great awakening we have seen in the last 18 months will have been just a momentary blip on history's radar screen.

This is a time for unity among pro-life activists, pro-family activists, "conservative" activists and libertarians. There are two principles that unite most of these people – whether they know it or not:

Overwhelmingly they believe we are accountable to a sovereign God who grants us unalienable rights to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.

Overwhelmingly they believe the Constitution strictly limits the power of the federal government and uniquely recognizes and protects those unalienable rights.

This is where the focus needs to be between all of the freedom-oriented groups now battling to take America back from those who would transform it to be more like all the other nations of the world – those that long ago turned from God and those that don't have a 223-year-old Constitution that removed shackles from the people and placed them on the government.

I know the heart and soul of the tea-party movement.

It is populated by people who think just like I do about these big issues. It is a movement of prayerful people, people who love God, people who go to church and synagogue. And it is a movement of people who revere the Constitution. It is not just a movement founded upon issues of materialism and economics.

Furthermore, I would submit to you that "all issues are social issues." The great economic plundering taking place by a rapacious government and the elite they serve is a "social issue." The victims are people. Private property rights is a "social issue." Equal protection under the law is a "social issue." The rule of law is a "social issue."

And, most of all, the will of the people is a "social issue."

Don't let your enemies dictate the terms of debate nor the rules of engagement.

If you care about life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, you care about "social issues."

© 2010

Today's bad guys truly are fascists

by Joseph Farah [article link](#)

Between The Lines, WorldNet Daily Exclusive Commentary

Posted: February 26, 2010

Self-described "progressives" seldom respond well to being labeled fascists.

They usually consider themselves to be the very antithesis.

But, as I wrote in my column last weekend, "The real political spectrum 101," [article follows below] they really are not so different.

In fact, I'd be hard-pressed to find any substantive difference.

Even moderate Democrats today, people like Pat Caddell, are calling today's American "progressives" – people like Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid – "statists." Can any reasonable observer deny they are just that? Don't they believe the state has the answer to all problems? Don't their actions suggest they think government can pretty much always do a better job than the private sector? Are they the folks pushing the "public-private partnerships"? Heck, didn't they facilitate the public takeover of General Motors?

Not to put too fine a point on it, but those are the very definitions of "fascism."

[advertisement in article] Laugh out loud at the Obama administration with this unique [WND T-shirt](#)

The political ideology of fascism has nothing to do with killing Jews or even imperialistic ambitions. It has to do with government controlling corporations, doling out favors to some and punishing others and harnessing the power of success by corporations for the benefit of the state.

Again, it's a tiny step short of communism, which calls for state ownership of the means of production. Fascists like Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler recognized the inefficiency and foolishness of that utopian notion.

Mussolini put it this way: **"Fascism should rightly be called corporatism as it is a merger of state and corporate power."**

Here's another key quote: "State intervention in economic production arises only when private initiative is lacking or insufficient, or when the political interests of the state are involved. This intervention may take the form of control, assistance or direct management."

Sound familiar yet?

The state was God in both fascist Italy and fascist Germany. And it is rapidly becoming God in the United States.

Again, listen to Mussolini: "It is the state which educates citizens in civic virtue, gives them a consciousness of their mission, and welds them into unity."

And if you don't believe me when I say that fascism is simply another form of left-wing socialism, read Mussolini's history. Or simpler still, listen to this quotation from Hermann Goering, Nazi German leader and close Hitler loyalist: "Our

movement took a grip on cowardly Marxism and from it extracted the meaning of socialism. It also took from the cowardly middle-class parties their nationalism. Throwing both into the cauldron of our way of life there emerged, as clear as a crystal, the synthesis – German National Socialism."

I don't suppose I have to remind this sophisticated audience that's how the Nazis got their name – "national socialism."

Once again, the take-away is this: What is right now strangling the historical framework of individual rights and self-government in America today is not communism. It's fascism.

That's the proper term for what Obama and Pelosi and Reid are all about.

They may like to call themselves "progressives." So did Mussolini. So did Hitler.

They may publicly reject the notion that they are socialists. Mussolini and Hitler were a little more candid.

This is not to suggest that Obama and Pelosi and Reid are setting up America for death camps. But fascism certainly means less freedom. Fascism certainly means the state comes first. Fascism certainly places little emphasis on the rights of individuals.

Again, communism and fascism are ideological kissing cousins. They are not, as many "progressives" like to suggest, opposite ends of the political spectrum. They couldn't be any closer. All forms of socialism, collectivism and state tyranny is on the left side of the political spectrum. On the opposite end is no government – anarchy.

What's the center of the political spectrum?

Limited self-government under the rule of law and accountable to the will of the people – just the unique formula invented by America's founders.

Therefore, I can proudly and accurately say, "I'm a centrist – just like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and James Madison."

© 2010

The political spectrum 101

by Joseph Farah [article link](#)

Between The Lines, WorldNet Daily Exclusive Commentary

Posted: February 20, 2010

There's much confusion about the meaning of left and right in America today.

The confusion is, ironically, on both the left and the right.

I witnessed this most recently in commentaries and news reports about the riots at the Vancouver Olympics.

Those participating in the riots most frequently describe themselves as "anarchists."

So let's start with proponents of "anarchy." Where do they fall on the left-right political spectrum?

As proponents of no government, they would fall on the extreme right.

A true anarchist would be as far to the right as you can get on the political spectrum. Just to the left of anarchists would be libertarians, who acknowledge there is a role for government but want it strictly limited. Those we call "conservatives" might be just to the left of the libertarians.

[advertisement in article] Don't miss our Founding Fathers' most inspired arguments for constitutional government translated into today's English: "[Federalist Papers In Modern Language](#)"

Over on the other side of the political spectrum, the left side, would be those who want government to have totalitarian control. These would be hard-core Stalinists and communists.

Just to the right of them, but still way over on the left side of the spectrum, would be fascists, those who are still totalitarians, but don't insist that government own all the means of production. Fascists are content to control the means of production.

Just to the right of these folks are those in our society who call for a "mixed economy" in line with the European model. You could also call it "soft socialism."

In other words, what truly defines the political spectrum is attitude toward the proper role of government.

How does this model differentiate from the general misconceptions we hear so frequently?

First of all, fascism is often portrayed as a "right-wing" ideology, when, in fact, it is far left. Fascism and communism are ideological kissing cousins. That's how close they are on the political spectrum and in their way of governance.

In fact, I would say that fascists are often mistakenly called communists. Take a look at China today and it is not by any stretch of the imagination communist. It is fascist. Even though most people who think of themselves as "left" would tell you they detest fascism, in practice, they often have not.

Mussolini was beloved by the left and practically defined fascism. Hitler was embraced by the Communist Soviet Union, until he betrayed Stalin's non-aggression pact. Hollywood Communists led the "peace movement" in the U.S. and fought involvement in the European war until Hitler betrayed Stalin. Then, overnight, they became war mongers.

Secondly, anarchists are often desecrated as left-wingers, when in fact they are on the extreme right of the political spectrum. Again, the political spectrum, if it is to make any sense at all, should be based on attitude toward government.

Because of these misconceptions, many Americans are missing the real political threat facing our country. It's not from communism, but it is from another form of socialism – fascism.

Whenever you hear about "public-private partnerships," you're hearing about a fascist concept.

Whenever you hear about emergency government plans to confiscate property, block transportation and seize control of communications, it's socialism that is knocking on the door.

Look at the way we have abdicated our individual liberties in favor of "group rights." That's a fascist concept. Look at the way we demonize certain groups (whether you're talking about smokers or Bible-believing Christians) and elevate others (native Americans and homosexuals come to mind as the new noblemen or chosen people) in our society. That, too, is a fascist concept.

One of the reasons America is moving toward fascism today is because it has lost its constitutional moorings. We're supposed to believe in limited government in the United States. The federal powers are enumerated in the Constitution. But, in recent years, Washington has far exceeded its authority. And very few politicians – Democrats or Republicans – seem to give a darn.

So, maybe you ask, who's in the middle of the political spectrum?

The Founding Fathers were.

They believed in very limited central government but left to the states broad powers to legislate.

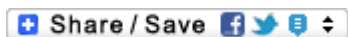
And I'm with them.

If we really want to understand what it is we believe and why the American form of constitutionally limited government is so superior to other forms, it's important to understand the political spectrum.

© 2010

Joseph Farah is founder, editor and CEO of WND and a nationally syndicated columnist with [Creators Syndicate](#). His book "[Taking America Back: A Radical Plan to Revive Freedom, Morality and Justice](#)" has gained newfound popularity in the wake of November's election. Farah also edits the online intelligence newsletter Joseph Farah's [G2 Bulletin](#), in which he utilizes his sources developed over 30 years in the news business.

WorldNet Daily [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:26 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Sunday, March 14, 2010

[Bishop and Green: The Road From Ruin](#)

The Road From Ruin: Wake Up, You Can Fix This Financial Mess

Matthew Bishop and Michael Green [article link](#)

March 11, 2010

The Huffington Post March 14, 2010

President Obama hit the nail on the head when he called the economic crisis "a great opportunity," yet so far it is one that America is wasting. Eighteen months ago, Lehman Brothers went bust and trillions of dollars of taxpayers' money was used to save the banking system. It seemed obvious then that a massive overhaul of the economy and the capitalist system that drove it was needed to get us out of the worst mess since the 1930s. **We wrote The Road From Ruin because we had long believed that although capitalism was the best tool we had to build a prosperous world, it had serious flaws -- and we wanted to be part of the debate about how not just to rebuild the system but to build it back better.** Today, we are shocked by how little real debate there has been, and even less real change.

True, the President pledged support for the Volcker Plan to separate everyday banking from risky investment banking -- although we doubt that alone would prevent another financial collapse, and anyway it is not likely to be passed by this bipartisan, infighting Congress. Obama called for innovation and that's what it will take to fix this broken system, so where are the big new ideas about building a financial sector that can support real job and wealth creation rather than the phantom growth, inflated stock prices and real estate bubbles of the last decade? Even after a systemic meltdown of the financial system, we still have the Fed, the Treasury, the SEC and the CFTC all supposedly watching over the system, but none of them really seeing the full picture or feeling fully responsible. **We need regulation that is both more muscular and smarter than the feeble oversight of the past 25 years. Where is the political courage to take on the vested interests in Congress (i.e., campaign dollars) that preserve this fragmented mess?**

This lack of leadership extends to global issues, since the out-of-date rules of international finance helped to pump air into the bubble that burst in September 2008. We got into this mess because America couldn't stop borrowing and China wouldn't stop lending and, as a result, we have all lost out. There were some fine words about sticking together and reforming the International Monetary Fund at the first meeting of the G20 in April of last year, but since then nothing. The global economy is being run by institutions created back in 1944 at the Bretton Woods conference when America was the world's lender. Now it is the biggest debtor. Does anyone really think that this system can carry on as it is?

As for Wall Street's bankers, they are too busy wallowing in their bonuses to realize that there is no going back to 2006 and business as usual -- that simplistic idea that setting financial markets free would make society better off will no longer wash. The little progress we have made in cleaning up the toxic assets on the balance sheets of the banks is still way ahead of where we have got to in dealing with the toxic ideas that got us into this mess. Most economists seem to think there are only two possibilities -- big government or unregulated free market. It's time to come up with new ways to look at how an economy can function.

Change will happen only if we, the people, demand it -- from our politicians, our economists, our financial institutions and our businesses. The future of our economy is simply too important a question to leave to Washington or Wall Street. Main Street America has to take the lead in getting our economy in shape for the next fifty years.

One of the big ideas in The Road from Ruin is the need to create "popular capitalism" if we are going to build back our economic system stronger than it was before - popular in the sense that all of us must be active in making it work. So we were delighted when The Huffington Post took the lead by championing local banking -- if we don't want our savings gambled in the gazillion-dollar global capital-market casino then it is up to us to "move our money" to the banks that will invest it back in our communities.

The next step is to demand a better deal from the pension funds and mutual funds that are supposedly working to ensure we have a decent income to retire on. But instead of investing for the long-term -- in the way that Warren Buffett does, with great success for those who trust him with their money -- too often they acted like short-term speculators, chasing every rising share price and giving bonuses to their staff for beating the market over a year, rather than for delivering their customers a good pension over 20 or 30 years. It was they who invested our money in all those failed banks, and did nothing to stop pay and bonuses getting out of control on the back of insanely risky strategies. We should be demanding that legislators rewrite the rules to give shareholders real power to stop executives doing whatever they like when it comes to their own salaries and their risky investments, and to vote them out when they do a lousy job.

This crisis is a wake up call to all of us that we need to do better in our economic decision making. We could all have been smarter about money. We're not just talking about the poor people who signed up to unaffordable mortgages. Cheered on by a too-often unquestioning media, we all enjoyed the bubble while it lasted and failed to ask some pretty basic questions about why we were getting so much richer without really working any harder.

Our politicians and business leaders seem to think they can ignore this wake up call, so it is going to be up to the rest of us to demand real, far-reaching change, now -- and, where we can, through what we do with our own money, to make the change happen ourselves. In our next blog post we will launch our Road From Ruin action plan for every citizen to take back control of our economic system. **This economic catastrophe has proven that there are fundamental flaws in the way we do capitalism. Yet all of these flaws can be fixed. Let's get to work.**

Matthew Bishop [bio page](#)

Michael Green [bio page](#)

The Huffington Post [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:08 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Misery and Cruelty in the Land 1

We have been, and are "faced with a hidden holocaust, a social pathology of staggering dimensions." **We must be aware of our social illness and the causes thereof.** Western society is on the brink of final collapse. The past, present and future are inextricably intertwined together. We must examine ourselves in order to heal as a society, as a common people, the public-Nation. We must understand the path that we have been forced along and who and what has driven us. We must be aware of all those left behind, not able to continue, wasted, beaten, left dead and dying. We must stop, throw off the bindings, bury the dead, carry those unable to continue and change direction. And finally there must be "truth and reconciliation" of-and-for those responsible because in-the-end we are all responsible (by silent approval and/or complicity, even though forced). Now is the time to say "enough." The following excerpt is an excellent place to start, to begin to understand. It presents our cracked and crumbling foundation. We have a long way to go and much to repair.

"Hidden Holocaust, USA" from "Dirty Truths"

by Michael Parenti, 1996

Misery and Cruelty in the Land

There is misery and cruelty in the land. As U.S. leaders move determinedly toward their free-market "Final Solution", stories abound of hunger, pain, and desperation. Such things have existed for a long time. Social pathology is as much a part of this society as crime and capitalism, but life is getting ever more difficult for many. Conservatives are fond of telling us what a wonderful, happy, prosperous nation this is. The only thing that matches their love of country is the remarkable indifference they show toward the people who live in it. To their ears the anguished cries of the dispossessed sound like the peevish whines of malcontents. They denounce as "bleeding hearts" those of us who criticize existing conditions, who show some concern for our fellow citizens - **but the dirty truth is that there exists a startling amount of hardship, abuse, affliction, illness, violence, and pathology in this country.** The figures reveal a casualty list that runs into many millions. Consider the following estimates.

In any one year:

- * 27,000 Americans commit suicide.
- * 5,000 attempt suicide. Some estimates are higher.
- * 26,000 die from fatal accidents in the home.
- * 23,000 are murdered.
- * 85,000 are wounded by firearms.
- * 38,000 of these die, including 2,600 children.
- * 13,000,000 are victims of crimes including assault, rape, armed robbery, burglary, larceny, and arson.
- * 135,000 children take guns to school.
- * 5,500,000 people are arrested for all offenses (not including traffic violations).
- * 125,000 die prematurely of alcohol abuse.
- * 473,000 die prematurely from tobacco-related illnesses. 53,000 of these are nonsmokers.
- * 6,500,000 use heroin, crack, speed, PCP, cocaine or some other hard drug on a regular basis.
- * 5,000+ die from illicit drug use. Thousands suffer serious debilitation's.
- * 1,000+ die from sniffing household substances found under the kitchen sink. About 20 percent of all eighth-graders have "huffed" toxic substances. Thousands suffer permanent neurological damage.
- * 31,450,000 use marijuana, 3,000,000 of whom are heavy users.
- * 37,000,000, or one out of every six Americans, regularly use emotion controlling medical drugs. The users are mostly women. The pushers are doctors. The suppliers are pharmaceutical companies. The profits are stupendous.
- * 2,000,000 nonhospitalized persons are given powerful mind-control drugs, sometimes described as "chemical straitjackets."
- * 5,000 die from psychoactive drug treatments.
- * 200,000 are subjected to electric shock treatments that are injurious to the brain and nervous system.
- * 600 to 1,000 are lobotomized, mostly women.

- * 25,000,000, or one out of every 10 Americans, seek help from psychiatric, psycho therapeutic, or medical sources for mental and emotional problems, at a cost of over \$4 billion annually.
- * 6,800,000 turn to nonmedical services, such as ministers, welfare agencies, and social counselors for help with emotional troubles. In all, some 80,000,000 have sought some kind of psychological counseling in their lifetimes.
- * 1,300,000 suffer some kind of injury related to treatment at hospitals.
- * 2,000,000 undergo unnecessary surgical operations; 10,000 of whom die from the surgery.
- * 180,000 die from adverse reactions to all medical treatments, more than are killed by airline and automobile accidents combined.
- * 14,000+ die from overdoses of legal prescription drugs.
- * 45,000 are killed in auto accidents, yet more cars and highways are being built while funding for safer forms of mass transportation is reduced.
- * 1,800,000 sustain nonfatal injuries from auto accidents, but 150,000 of these auto injury victims suffer permanent impairments.
- * 126,000 children are born with a major birth defect, mostly due to insufficient prenatal care, nutritional deficiency, environmental toxicity, or maternal drug addiction.
- * 2,900,000 children are reportedly subjected to serious neglect or abuse, including physical torture and deliberate starvation.
- * 5,000 children are killed by parents or grandparents.
- * 30,000 or more children are left permanently physically disabled from abuse and neglect. Child abuse in the United States afflicts more children each year than leukemia, automobile accidents, and infectious diseases combined. With growing unemployment, incidents of abuse by jobless parents is increasing dramatically.
- * 1,000,000 children run away from home, mostly because of abusive treatment, including sexual abuse, from parents and other adults. Of the many sexually abused children among runaways, 83 percent come from white families.
- * 150,000 children are reported missing.
- * 50,000 of these simply vanish. Their ages range from one year to mid-teens. According to the New York Times, "some of these are dead, perhaps half of the John and Jane Does annually buried in this country are unidentified kids."
- * 900,000 children, some as young as seven years old, are engaged in child labor in the United States, serving as underpaid farm hands, dishwashers, laundry workers, and domestics for as long as ten hours a day in violation of child labor laws.
- * 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 women are battered. Domestic violence is the single largest cause of injury and second largest cause of death to U.S. women.
- * 700,000 women are raped, one every 45 seconds.
- * 5,000,000 workers are injured on the job. 150,000 of whom suffer permanent work-related disabilities, including maiming, paralysis, impaired vision, damaged hearing, and sterility.
- * 100,000 become seriously ill from work-related diseases, including black lung, brown lung, cancer, and tuberculosis.
- * 14,000 are killed on the job. About 90 percent are men.
- * 100,000 die prematurely from work-related diseases.
- * 60,000 are killed by toxic environmental pollutants or contaminants in food, water, or air.
- * 4,000 die from eating contaminated meat.
- * 20,000 others suffer from poisoning by E.coli 0157-H7, the mutant bacteria found in contaminated meat that generally leads to lifelong physical and mental health problems. A more thorough meat inspection with new technologies could eliminate most instances of contamination - so would vegetarianism.

At present (1996):

- * 5,100,000 are behind bars or on probation or parole. 2,700,000 of these are either locked up in county, state or federal prisons or under legal supervision. Each week 1,600 more people go to jail than leave. The prison population has skyrocketed over 200 percent since 1980. Over 40 percent of inmates are jailed on nonviolent drug related crimes. African Americans constitute 13 percent of drug users but 35 percent of drug arrests, 55 percent of drug convictions and 74 percent of prison sentences. For nondrug offenses, African Americans get prison terms that average about 10 percent longer than Caucasians for similar crimes.
- * 15,000+ have tuberculosis, with the numbers growing rapidly. 10,000,000 or more carry the tuberculosis bacilli, with large numbers among the economically deprived or addicted.
- * 10,000,000 people have serious drinking problems; alcoholism is on the rise.

- * 16,000,000 have diabetes, up from 11,000,000 in 1983 as Americans get more sedentary and sugar addicted. Left untreated, diabetes can lead to blindness, kidney failure and nerve damage.
- * 160,000 will die from diabetes this year.
- * 280,000 are institutionalized for mental illness or mental retardation. Many of these are forced into taking heavy doses of mind control drugs.
- * 255,000 mentally ill or retarded have been summarily released in recent years. Many of the "deinstitutionalized" are now in flophouses or wandering the streets.
- * 3,000,000 or more suffer cerebral and physical handicaps including paralysis, deafness, blindness, and lesser disabilities. A disproportionate number of them are poor. Many of these disabilities could have been corrected with early treatment or prevented with better living conditions.
- * 2,400,000 million suffer from some variety of seriously incapacitating chronic fatigue syndrome.
- * 10,000,000+ suffer from symptomatic asthma, an increase of 145 percent from 1990 to 1995, largely due to the increasingly polluted quality of the air we breathe.
- * 40,000,000 or more are without health insurance or protection from catastrophic illness.
- * 1,800,000 elderly who live with their families are subjected to serious abuse such as forced confinement, underfeeding, and beatings. The mistreatment of elderly people by their children and other close relatives grows dramatically as economic conditions worsen.
- * 1,126,000 of the elderly live in nursing homes. A large but undetermined number endure conditions of extreme neglect, filth, and abuse in homes that are run with an eye to extracting the highest possible profit.
- * 1,000,000 or more children are kept in orphanages, reformatories, and adult prisons. Most have been arrested for minor transgressions or have committed no crime at all and are jailed without due process. Most are from impoverished backgrounds; many are subjected to beatings, sexual assault, prolonged solitary confinement, mind control drugs, and in some cases psycho surgery.
- * 1,000,000 are estimated to have AIDS as of 1996. Over 250,000 have died of that disease.
- * 950,000 school children are treated with powerful mind control drugs for "hyperactivity" every year, with side effects like weight loss, growth retardation and acute psychosis.
- * 4,000,000 children are growing up with unattended learning disabilities.
- * 4,500,000+ children, or more than half of the 9,000,000 children on welfare, suffer from malnutrition. Many of these suffer brain damage caused by prenatal and infant malnourishment.
- * 40,000,000 persons, or one of every four women and more than one of every ten men, are estimated to have been sexually molested as children, most often between the ages of 9 and 12, usually by close relatives or family acquaintances. Such abuse almost always extends into their early teens and is a part of their continual memory and not a product of memory retrieval in therapy.
- * 7,000,000 to 12,000,000 are unemployed. Numbers vary with the business cycle. Increasing numbers of the chronically unemployed show signs of stress and emotional depression.
- * 6,000,000 are in "contingent" jobs, or jobs structured to last only temporarily. About 60 percent of these would prefer permanent employment.
- * 15,000,000 or more are part-time or reduced-time "contract" workers who need full-time jobs and who work without benefits.
- * 3,000,000 additional workers are unemployed but uncounted because their unemployment benefits have run out, or they never qualified for benefits, or they have given up looking for work, or they joined the armed forces because they were unable to find work.
- * 80,000,000 live on incomes estimated by the U.S. Department of Labor as below a "comfortable adequacy." 35,000,000 of these live below the poverty level.
- * 12,000,000 of those at poverty's rock bottom suffer from chronic hunger and malnutrition. The majority of the people living at or below the poverty level experience hunger during some portion of the year.
- * 2,000,000 or more are homeless, forced to live on the streets or in makeshift shelters.
- * 160,000,000+ are members of households that are in debt, a sharp increase from the 100 million of less than a decade ago. A majority indicate they have borrowed money not for luxuries but for necessities. Mounting debts threaten a financial crack-up in more and more families.

[Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:45 AM](#) [1 comments](#) 

Misery and Cruelty in the Land 2

A Happy Nation?

Obviously these estimates include massive duplications. Many of the 20 million unemployed are among the 35 million below the poverty level. Many of the malnourished children are also among those listed as growing up with untreated learning disabilities and almost all are among the 35 million poor. Many of the 37 million regular users of mind-control drugs also number among the 25 million who seek psychiatric help.

Some of these deprivations and afflictions are not as serious as others. The 80 million living below the "comfortably adequate" income level may compose too vague and inclusive a category for some observers (who themselves enjoy a greater distance from the poverty line). The 40 million who are without health insurance are not afflicted by an actual catastrophe but face only a potential one (though the absence of health insurance often leads to a lack of care and eventually a serious health crisis). We might not want to consider the 5.5 million arrested as having endured a serious affliction, but what of the 1.5 million who are serving time and what of their victims? We might want to count only the 150,000 who suffer a serious job-related disability rather than the five million on-the-job injuries, only half of the 20 million unemployed and underemployed so as not to duplicate poverty figures, only 10 percent of the 1.1 million institutionalized elderly as mistreated (although the number is probably higher), only 10 per cent of the 37 million regular users of medically prescribed psychogenic drugs as seriously troubled, only 5 per cent of the 160 million living in indebted families as seriously indebted (although the number is probably higher).

If we consider only those who have endured physical or sexual abuse, or have been afflicted with a serious disability, or a serious deprivation such as malnutrition and homelessness, only those who face untimely deaths due to suicide, murder, battering, drug and alcohol abuse, industrial and motor vehicle accidents, medical (mis)treatment, occupational illness, and sexually transmitted diseases, we are still left with a staggering figure of over 19,000,000 victims. To put the matter in some perspective, in the 12 years that saw 58,000 Americans killed in Vietnam, several million died prematurely within the United States from unnatural and often violent causes.

Official bromides to the contrary, **we are faced with a hidden holocaust, a social pathology of staggering dimensions.** Furthermore, the above figures do not tell the whole story. In almost every category an unknown number of persons go unreported, for instance, the official tabulation of 35 million living in poverty is based on census data that undercount transients, homeless people, and those living in remote rural and crowded inner-city areas, also, the designated poverty line is set at an unrealistically low income level and takes insufficient account of how inflation especially affects the basics of food, fuel, housing, and health care that consume such a disproportionate chunk of lower incomes. Some economists estimate that actually as many as 46 million live in conditions of acute economic want.

Left uncounted are the more than two thousand yearly deaths in the U.S. military due to training and transportation accidents, and the many murders and suicides in civilian life that are incorrectly judged as deaths from natural causes, along with the premature deaths from cancer caused by radioactive and other carcinogenic materials in the environment. Almost all cancer deaths are now thought to be from human-made causes. Fatality figures do not include the people who are incapacitated and sickened from the one thousand potentially toxic additional chemicals that industry releases into the environment each year, and who die years later but still prematurely. At present there are at least 51,000 industrial toxic dump sites across the country that pose potentially serious health hazards to communities, farmlands, water tables, and livestock. One government study has concluded that the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat are now perhaps the leading causes of death in the United States.

None of these figures include the unhappiness, bereavement, and longterm emotional wounds inflicted upon the many millions of loved ones, friends, and family members who are close to the victims.

Public Policy, Personal Pain

If things are so bad, why then has the U.S. mortality rate been declining? The decline over the last half-century has been due largely to the dramatic reduction in infant mortality and the containment of many contagious diseases, largely through

improvement in public health standards. Furthermore, years of industrial struggle by working people, especially in the twentieth century, brought a palpable betterment in certain conditions. In other words, as bad as things are now, in earlier times some things were even worse. For example, about 14,000 persons are killed on the job annually, but in 1916 the toll was 35,000, with the labor force less than half what it is today.

The growth in health consciousness that has led millions to quit smoking, exercise more regularly, and have healthier diets also has reduced mortality rates, especially among those over 40. The 55-mile per hour speed limit and the crackdown on drunken driving contributed by cutting into highway fatalities. But the cancer death rate and most of the other pathologies and life diminishing conditions listed earlier continue in an upward direction. Small wonder the climb in life expectancy has leveled off to a barely perceptible crawl in recent years. When compared to other nations, we discover we are not as Number One-ish as we might think. The U.S. infant mortality rate is higher than in thirteen other countries, and in life expectancy, 20-year-old U.S. males rank thirty-sixth among the world's nations, and 20-year-old females are twenty-first. The additional tragedy of these statistics is that most of the casualties are not inevitable products of the human condition, but are due mostly to the social and material conditions created by our profits-before-people corporate system.

Consider a few examples:

First, it may be that industrial production will always carry some kind of risk, but the present rate of attrition can be largely ascribed to inadequate safety standards, speedup, and lax enforcement of safety codes. Better policies can make a difference. In the chemical industry alone, regulations put out by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), at a yearly cost to industry of \$140 per worker, brought a 23 percent drop in accidents and sickness, averting some 90,000 illnesses and injuries. OSHA's resources are pathetically inadequate. It has only enough inspectors to visit each workplace once every eighty years. Workplace standards to control the tens of thousands of toxic substances are issued at the rate of less than three a year. Even this feeble effort has been more than business could tolerate. Under the Reagan and Bush administrations, OSHA began removing protections, exempting most firms from routine safety inspections, and weakening the cotton dust, cancer, and lead safety standards, and a worker's right to see company medical records.

Second, it may be that in any society some children will sicken and die, but better nutrition and health care make a difference. The Women, Infants and Children nutrition program (WIC) did cut down on starvation and hunger. On the other hand, years after passing a law making some thirteen million children eligible for medical examination and treatment, Congress discovered that almost 85 percent of the youngsters had been left unexamined, causing, in the words of a House subcommittee report, "unnecessary crippling, retardation, or even death of thousands of children."

Third, it may be that medical treatment will always have its hazards, but given the way health care is organized in the United States, money often makes the difference between life and death. Many sick people die simply because they receive insufficient care or are treated too late. Health Insurance premiums have risen astronomically and hospital bills have grown five times faster than the overall cost of living. Yet it is almost universally agreed that people are not receiving better care, only more expensive care, and in some areas the quality of care has deteriorated. Some physicians have cheated Medicaid and Medicare of hundreds of millions of dollars by consistently overcharging for services and tests, fraudulently billing for nonexistent patients or for services not rendered, charging for unneeded treatments, tests, and hospital admissions, and most unforgivable of all, performing unnecessary surgery. Meanwhile, private health insurance companies make profits by raising premiums and withholding care. So people are paying more than ever for health insurance while getting less than ever.

Fourth, it may be that automobile accidents are unavoidable in any society with millions of motor vehicles, but why have we become increasingly dependent on this costly, dangerous, and ecologically disastrous form of transportation? In transporting people, one railroad or subway car can do the work of fifty automobiles. Railroads consume a sixth of the energy used by trucks to transport goods.

These very efficiencies are what make railroads so undesirable to the oil and auto lobbies. For over a half-century, giant corporations like General Motors, Standard Oil of California, and Firestone Tires bought up most of the nation's clean and safe electric streetcar networks, dismantled them, and cut back on all public transportation, thereby forcing people to rely

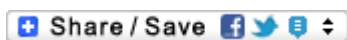
more and more on private cars. The monorail in Japan, a commuter train that travels much faster than any train, has transported some three billion passengers without an injury or fatality. The big oil and auto companies in the U.S. have successfully blocked the construction of monorails here. In ways not yet mentioned corporate and public policies gravely affect private lives. Birth deformities, for instance, are not just a quirk of nature, as the heartbroken parents of Love Canal or the thalidomide children can testify. Many such defects are caused by fast-buck companies that treat our environment like a septic tank. Unsafe products are another cause. There are hundreds of hair dyes, food additives, cosmetics, and medicines marketed for quick profits which have been linked to cancer, birth defects, and other illnesses.

The food industry, seeking to maximize profits, offers ever increasing amounts of highly processed, chemicalized, low-nutrition foods. Bombarded by junk-food advertising over the last thirty years, TV viewers, especially younger ones, have changed their eating habits dramatically. Per capita consumption of vegetables and fruits is down 20 to 25 per cent while consumption of cakes, pastry, soft drinks, and other snacks is up 70 to 80 per cent. According to a U.S. Senate report, the increased consumption of junk foods "may be as damaging to the nation's health as the widespread contagious diseases of the early part of the century." All this may start showing up on the actuarial charts when greater numbers of the younger junk-food generation move into middle age. In 1995-96, a Republican controlled Congress pushed for further cuts in environmental and consumer safety standards and in the regulation of industry, cuts in various public health programs, and cuts in nutritional programs for children and pregnant women. State and local governments are also cutting back on public protection programs and human services in order to pay the enormous sums owed to the banks and to compensate for reductions in federal aid. Thus New York City took such "economy measures" as closing all of its venereal disease clinics and most of its drug rehabilitation and health centers.

We are told that wife-beating, child abuse, alcoholism, drug abuse, and other such pathologies know no class boundaries and are found at all income levels. This is true but misleading. The impression left is that these pathologies are randomly distributed across the social spectrum and are purely a matter of individual pathology. Actually, many of them are skewed heavily toward the low-income, the unemployed, and the dispossessed. As economic conditions worsen, so afflictions increase. **Behind many of these statistics is the story of class, racial, sexual, and age oppressions that have long been among the legacies of our social order, oppressions that are seldom discussed in any depth by political leaders, news media, or educators. In addition, more and more middle-income people are hurting from the Third Worldization of America, suffering from acute stress, alcoholism, job insecurity, insufficient income, high rents, heavy mortgage payments, high taxes, and crushing educational and medical costs.** And almost all of us eat the pesticide-ridden foods, breathe the chemicalized air, and risk drinking the toxic water and being exposed to the contaminating wastes of our increasingly chemicalized, putrefied environment. I say "almost all of us" because the favored few live on country estates, ranches, seashore mansions, and summer hideaways where the air is relatively fresh, and, like President Reagan, they eat only the freshest food and meat derived from organically fed steers that are kept free of chemical hormones, while telling the rest of us not to get hysterical about pesticides and herbicides and chemical additives.

All this explains why many of us find little cause for rejoicing about America the Beautiful. It is not that we don't love our country, but that we do. We love not just an abstraction called "the USA" but the people who live in it, and we believe that the pride of a nation should not be used to hide the social and economic disorder that is its shame. **The American dream is becoming a nightmare for many. A concern for collective betterment, for ending the abuses of free-market plunder, is of the utmost importance. "People before profits" is not just a slogan, it is our only hope.** -- [based on "Hidden Holocaust, USA" from "Dirty Truths" by Michael Parenti, 1996]

Michael Parenti [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:36 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Saturday, March 13, 2010

Imagine The Horror 1

Imagine the Horror

Evil: The Same Yesterday, Today, And Tomorrow

March 13: On This Day In History

Operation Northwoods

Operation Northwoods memoranda (March 13, 1962).

Operation Northwoods, or Northwoods, was a U.S false flag plan from 1962 as a "preliminary submission suitable for planning purposes" for the agenda of generating U.S. public support for military action against the Cuban government of Fidel Castro. The plan says, "The desired resultant from the execution of this plan would be to place the United States in the apparent position of suffering defensible grievances from a rash and irresponsible government of Cuba and to develop an international image of a Cuban threat to peace in the Western Hemisphere." **Operation Northwoods was drafted by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and signed by the Chairman Lyman Lemnitzer, to the Secretary of Defense.**

Several proposals were listed. One was to "develop a Communist Cuban terror campaign" against the Miami area, in other Florida cities and even in Washington. Others were real or simulated actions against various U.S military and civilian targets. Operation Northwoods was part of the U.S. government's Operation Mongoose anti-Castro initiative. It was never officially accepted or executed.

US Irradiated Thousands in Atomic Experiments

During the Cold War, the United States government carried out a vast program of Nazi-like radiation experiments on poor and working-class people. Hundreds of unsuspecting victims were given massive doses of x-rays, injected with radioactive substances, made to eat carcinogenic fallout as scientists observed the deadly effects - yet these tests, some of which have recently been publicized, are only a small part of the US rulers' [the private Nation-State] deliberate subjection of humans to massive doses of radiation in order to study the impact of the bomb's radiation on the human body. The same experiments were undoubtedly carried out within the Soviet Union and the western public would almost expect this due to decades of media vilification. Both sides of the contrived cold war are guilty of crimes against humanity. **But the fact of the [enlightened] West conducting these horrors should show beyond any doubt that those in control [the SAGE, ref: [MM Addendum 1](#) [MM Addendum 2](#) (widescreen) or [MM Addendum blog home](#)] place themselves above the law, that they operate on a different plane, that there is an agenda where the end justifies any means, that accountability does not enter into the equation, that those who rule are not the elected governments and that agencies and institutions are in place that has usurped the very life and morals of the nation.**

These "studies" came in the aftermath of the US incineration of over 200,000 Japanese civilians by dropping A-bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. The SAGE [here, the American establishment] cynically poses as defenders of democracy and human rights, yet the US is the only country to ever use atomic weapons in wartime - and that crime was seen by the US rulers as a prologue to what they had in store for the Soviet Union in their drive against the Russian Revolution of 1917.

As part of the massive effort to develop and test nuclear weapons intended to be used against the Soviet Union, literally hundreds of thousands of US troops were sent into irradiated blast sites within minutes after atomic bombs were set off. In addition, many tens of thousands of atomic weapons industry workers were callously and routinely exposed to deadly radioactive materials as the US sought to build up its nuclear arsenal. Despite all the talk of nuclear weapons simply acting as a "deterrent," Washington was actively pursuing plans for a thermonuclear "first strike" against the USSR. They intended to follow this up by sending in troops to subdue the survivors. That is why they urgently needed to know how much radiation their troops could stand.

Recently (1994), US Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary [in Office: Jan 22, 1993 - Jan 20, 1997] flamboyantly proclaimed an "Openness Initiative," promising to declassify the files on human radiation experiments. After O'Leary gave the go-ahead, suddenly the papers are full of revelations. Many go back to a mid-1980s Congressional study which was ignored at the time, and once the lid was lifted on this horrific subject, more reports began to come in. Universities "discovered" radioactive skeletons in their closets. Thousands have called up government "hot lines" to report secret tests in which they were victims. Suddenly the glare of publicity is thrown onto footnotes in articles for prestigious technical journals detailing how scientists used human beings as guinea pigs for their macabre research.

The inhuman torments practiced on the poor, the infirm, racial minorities, hospital patients, prisoners, and particularly the US' colonial subjects, recall the Nazi "experiments" on the Jews, Gypsies and other inmates of the concentration camps. One of the US researchers, commenting on his own plan to irradiate a group of "adult males past the age of 50," guiltily noted: "admittedly, this would have a little of the Buchenwald touch" (referring to the German concentration camp where hundreds were killed by being infected with typhoid fever). And then there were the effects of nuclear weapons tests. John Gofman, founder of the Biomedical Research Division at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, recalled how in the 1950s he was among those who declared that there was no danger from fallout: "I feel that at least several hundred scientists trained in the biomedical aspect of atomic energy - myself definitely included - are candidates for Nuremberg-type trials for crimes against humanity through our gross negligence and irresponsibility" (cited in Harvey Wasserman and Norman Solomon, *Killing Our Own* (1982)).

Yet today (1994) a major campaign is underway in the corporate press arguing that this hideous record must be "understood" as an unfortunate "excess" - after all, proclaims the "free but responsible" press, only a few hundred people were supposedly involved, medical "ethicists" say that standards at the time were not worked out, the long-term consequences of radiation exposure were "not fully understood," etc. Newsweek contributing editor Gregg Easterbrook, writing in the *Los Angeles Times* (09 January), declared that "the instant-doomsday aspects of the scandal appear largely hyperbole" because supposedly "hardly any actual harm was done," and besides, "a significant number of Americans exhibit an almost clinical paranoia in believing themselves victims of secret government tests." The *Washington Post* (09 January) counseled its readers "to temper our judgments; to consider the nature and purpose of the experiments (ie., understanding the effects of nuclear war) as well as the times in which they were conducted."

They were conducted in the times of the Cold War, and the scope of the experimentation exposing humans to radioactive substances is far, far greater than the few cases initially reported. The government and its kept media want to sweep under the rug how the US Army kept people penned up unprotected in the vicinity of blast sites to "study" the deadly effects of the heat and radiation. They don't want you to know that their mapping showed fallout from nuclear tests spreading over most of the country. They try to hide the fact that the gruesome experiments preferentially used racial minorities as their subjects, and even deliberately targeted black people. Press reports don't say how US scientists repeated some of the very same tests performed by Nazi scientists at Auschwitz, nor that Washington protected these fascist experimenters in order to get their data. And they want to bury the fact that all these experiments were necessary for their plans to launch nuclear war against the Soviet Union.

All that is reported below is from published sources - but **when you put it together you have the evidence of crimes against humanity that rival those for which Nazi war criminals were tried at Nuremberg. These experiments were approved at the highest levels of the US government, and the officials who ordered them, the scientists who carried them out and the bureaucrats who covered them up were perfectly conscious of what they were doing.** Now, as the result of the fall of the Soviet Union and East Europe, Washington would like to turn the page on this chilling legacy of the Cold War. **But the racist cruelty, class hatred and utter contempt for the weak and the vulnerable which motivated these "experiments" provide a sinister view of the behind-the-scenes horrors as the establishment arms itself to defend its interests.**

Expos and Cover-Up

US Cold War radiation "experiments" became a full-blown scandal late last year when the *Albuquerque Tribune* (15-17 November 1993) published a 45-page investigative report by Eileen Welsome on 18 hospital patients who, between 1945 and 1947, were injected with radioactive plutonium, one of the most carcinogenic substances known. The victims were

given doses ranging from 1.6 to 98 times the level considered at the time as the occupational limit. Referring to a victim who survived a "whopping dose" of plutonium, a former government radiation specialist commented: "they were surprised a black man who had been scheduled to die had walked out of the hospital."

One of the experimenters' subjects was Elmer Allen, a 36-year-old black railroad porter, who had been hospitalized with a broken leg (it had to be amputated three days after it was injected with plutonium). When Allen informed his family doctor that he had been the subject of a government experiment, he was diagnosed as a "paranoid schizophrenic." As with all the other victims, researchers never explained what they had done to him. "He knew he had been a guinea pig, but he wasn't sure exactly how," his daughter later declared, "and for 40 years, he sat around waiting to die."

US Army officials, perfectly aware of the consequences of their actions, tried to engineer a massive cover-up of their grisly experimentation on humans. The Albuquerque Tribune quoted from a letter the Army wrote to the Atomic Energy Commission in 1947: "it is desired that no document be released which refers to experiments with humans and might have adverse effect on public opinion or result in legal suits - documents covering such work should be classified secret."

President Clinton cynically seized on the radiation "experiments" as "a political boon" and "a sure-fire way to expose the wrongs of past administrations," as the Los Angeles Times (10 January) put it. In early January [1994], Clinton set up a "task force" including the departments of Energy, Health and Human Services, Justice, Defense and Veterans' Affairs, as well as NASA, the National Security Council, and the Office of Management and Budget. The panel is supposedly going to bring to light all radiation "experiments" and assess the injuries suffered by the victims. But despite all the talk of "openness," today, more than two months after O'Leary's initial announcement, practically no files have been released while Energy Department personnel reportedly comb them to delete any clues to the victims' identities. The reason is obvious: legal suits for damages would run into the billions.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:30 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Imagine The Horror 2

These atrocities were the product of the bipartisan anti-Soviet war drive. O'Leary herself drove the point home at a San Francisco meeting with researchers from the University of California's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. O'Leary hailed "the science and the technology that built the bomb, that tested the bomb, that kept the bomb available to us" and declared, "I stand in support of that work and know that it was a good thing" (Oakland Tribune, 13 January).

Meanwhile, O'Leary has carefully steered away from the question of the massive radiation exposure in the nuclear weapons industry. Workers in these government-owned plants handle highly radioactive metals like uranium and plutonium, often with no more protection against radiation than if they worked in a steel plant. Plutonium wastes, which are both highly radioactive and extremely poisonous, are buried around these plants in unlined pits - often simply packed in cardboard boxes - and hundreds of tons of radioactive uranium dust has been released into the surrounding air and water. As one radiation specialist said of these installations: "the clinical study of the personnel is one vast experiment - never before has so large a collection of individuals been exposed to so much irradiation." (quoted in Barton Hacker, *The Dragon's Tail* [1987]).

O'Leary initially promised "compensation" to the victims of radiation experiments, which she grossly underestimated to be 800 people, but the White House quickly stepped in, saying that this was "premature." The US government actually pays all the legal fees (\$47 million over a three-year period) for government contractors running nuclear weapons plants as they fight law suits by workers and neighboring residents. A federal program to compensate uranium miners and people living downwind from nuclear test sites has paid meager sums - often not even enough to cover medical bills - to only about 600 victims - and fewer than 500 soldiers who were exposed to atomic bomb tests have been able to get disability benefits for radiation-induced illness.

The victims of these Cold War horrors must receive proper medical care and finally be compensated for their injuries; they ought to be awarded punitive damages from the criminal government which caused their suffering, which no amount of

money can undo. The government's massive files on the nuclear weapons program must be opened immediately - including giving workers in nuclear installations access to their now-classified medical records - before they are all censored or destroyed!

In justifying the unjustifiable, government "radiation specialists" tout the "critical, sometimes unique, data" the tests provided (New York Times, 1 January). **In reality, these "medical experiments" were "critical" in order to scientifically plan mass murder.** After unsuccessful attempts in the 1950s to simulate human radiation burns by placing animals near atomic bomb blasts (they dressed platoons of pigs in army uniforms, but their skin was too resistant; dogs were ruled out because of concern for the ASPCA), an Army doctor declared: "we decided it would be much better to start simulating these nuclear combat questions in laboratories, or to use human subjects when possible" (quoted in Roger Rapoport, *The Great American Bomb Machine* (1971)).

The macabre uses to which this "unique" data was to be put are reflected in the US Army's Handbook for Medical Service Personnel, which provides a guide for field commanders ordering troops into the blast area of an atomic bomb. It assures commanders that they will have "ample time to evaluate unit effectiveness as individuals become sick." The handbook counsels that, for example, at 200 rads of radiation, half the troops will experience nausea and vomiting, but "combat effectiveness" will remain 100 percent. At 600 rads (well over the lethal dose), troops will experience hemorrhage, and combat effectiveness will be cut to 50 percent. And at 1,000 rads, troops will experience convulsions and "progressive incapacitation" despite an "early capability for intermittent heroic response."

Most of the revelations now appearing in the press have been known for years. For example, a 1986 report by Representative Edward Markey's (Democrat, Massachusetts) House Subcommittee on Energy, Conservation and Power, titled "American Nuclear Guinea Pigs: Three Decades of Radiation Experiments on US Citizens," detailed 31 tests involving almost 700 people. But the report, coming in the middle of Reagan's Star Wars military buildup against the Soviet Union, was given short shrift in the corporate press.

The following are among the radiation experiments which have become public:

In the late 1940s, doctors fed radioactive iron - at doses 30 times higher than normal environmental radiation - to more than 800 pregnant women who sought free health care at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Their children were later found to suffer a high rate of cancer.

In December 1949, a huge cloud of radiation was deliberately released from the Hanford reactor in Washington, blanketing the Pacific Northwest with perhaps thousands of times more radiation than the 1979 Three Mile Island accident. The purpose was to test instruments designed to monitor the fallout from Soviet atomic bomb tests.

From 1946 to 1956, Harvard and MIT scientists fed breakfast cereal laced with radioactive calcium or iron - some doses were equivalent to 50 chest x-rays - to more than 120 adolescents at a school for the mentally retarded. Children were told they were joining a "science club" and got a free watch, while parents were assured the children would receive an improved "special diet."

In 1957, US Army doctors injected Eskimos and Athabascans of northern Alaska with radioactive iodine. A few years later, scientists spread radioactive debris, brought from the Nevada atomic bomb test site, on the tundra where the Native Americans hunted, causing many of them to die of cancer.

From 1961 to 1963, over 100 people at the University of Chicago and Argonne National Laboratory were fed fallout from the Nevada test site or "simulated" fallout containing radioactive strontium, barium and cesium.

Over a period of five years starting in 1961, researchers at MIT injected 20 people with radioactive radium and thorium. The victims were retired MIT employees and other "apparently healthy men and women" drawn from the Age Center of New England, a group of Boston elderly who agreed to participate in a variety of "research projects on aging."

Human "Experiments" at Ground Zero

In addition to its Nazi-like medical "experiments," the US government exposed hundreds of thousands of soldiers to atomic bomb blasts to test whether they could, or would, follow orders to carry out "mopping up" operations after a nuclear blast. Entire infantry units, armored convoys and even paratroop battalions were used in these "war games" between 1946 and 1962. As they inhaled the toxic radioactive dust, the soldiers would quickly show symptoms of radiation sickness - nausea, vomiting, dizziness - while Army medical personnel jotted down their reactions. Today (1994), these veterans suffer epidemic rates of cancer, musculoskeletal deterioration, nervous disorders and other consequences of their massive exposure to radiation. And as was noted by Oscar Rosen, commander of the National Association of Atomic Veterans, "most of the atomic test survivors are working class people, poor people, who have nothing - they were used!" (People's Weekly World, 22 January).

Last fall, the media raised a hue and cry that in 1954 the Soviet Union carried out an atomic bomb test "near 45,000 Red Army troops" (New York Times, 7 November 1993). But the number of US servicemen exposed to radiation from nuclear explosions was more than ten times that number. Even the US government's Defense Nuclear Agency was forced to acknowledge in the mid-1980s that some 200,000 US servicemen were used in nuclear bomb tests. Veterans' groups have estimated that the number of troops exposed to the blasts was probably closer to 250,000 - in addition, another 240,000 US troops were sent in to occupy Hiroshima and Nagasaki shortly after those cities were reduced to irradiated rubble by the savage US atomic bombing. And these figures do not include the untold numbers of Japanese who were killed by nuclear blasts or later died from exposure to the radiation. The Defense Department's claim that only a tiny percentage were exposed to high dosages of radiation is patently absurd when compared to the stories related by the troops involved. Former Marine Fred Warehime (who later lost a lung to cancer) described a bomb test in 1953: "the fireball was right straight up above our heads, I mean right over our heads - we had to be in the stem of it - "we were only 300 yards from ground zero - I told my men to get out of the trench and move out... then we got a sunburn, and the guys all started throwing up in the truck going back - the guys in that bunker in front of us were sick as dogs, all of them." (quoted in Carole Gallagher, American Ground Zero (1993)).

There is also convincing evidence that during nuclear bomb tests US officials deliberately incinerated human beings by forcibly exposing them to the bomb's searing blast. Marine sergeant Israel Torres recalled his participation in the 1957 explosion of an H-bomb: "we'd only gone a short way when one of my men said, [expletive], look at that! I looked at where he was pointing, and what I saw horrified me - there were people in a stockade - a chain-link fence with barbed wire on top of it... their hair was falling out and their skin seemed to be peeling off - they were wearing blue denim trousers but no shirts - when we passed those people - there were ten or twelve - they tried to cover their faces with their hands... [expletive], it was scary." -- (Thomas Saffer and Orville Kelly, Countdown Zero (1982)).

When Torres told this to nurses at the hospital where he was treated for radiation sickness, he was turned over to military psychiatrists and intimidated into keeping silent. Torres' testimony was extensively quoted in a legal brief by attorney William Fletcher published in the Washington Law Review (April 1990) - and Carole Gallagher, in American Ground Zero, reports that in her interviews with victims of the nuclear tests she "came across the same story again and again" from men who participated in that test. They reported seeing animals burned to a crisp, humans handcuffed to fences. "When soldiers spoke of seeing the burned and shackled remains of humans on the nuclear battleground, they were submitted to the same psychiatric deprogramming."

Another group of human guinea pigs who were deliberately exposed to radiation were the "downwinders," residents of the towns downwind from the Nevada test site. Reassured by the government that they faced no danger, families had backyard picnics to watch the explosions, and children playfully shook the deadly fallout from the trees like snow. Entire families in these regions have been almost wiped out by leukemia and other cancers. It has been estimated that the fallout from nuclear testing will ultimately kill almost one million people worldwide from lung cancer alone.

Worst hit by the radiation from nuclear testing were the US subjects of the Marshall Islands, who were blasted with 66 nuclear test explosions - including all the most powerful hydrogen bomb tests. As a result, the Marshall Islanders have been ravaged by cancer and much of their islands rendered virtually uninhabitable. After a 1954 explosion, the deadly fallout was so thick that inhabitants of Rongelap Atoll, some 250 miles downwind from the blast, were severely burned by the radiation, and almost all the children later got thyroid tumors.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:23 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Saturday, March 13, 2010

Imagine The Horror 3

Racism and Nazi-Style Experiments

In their blatant racism and cruelty, the radiation experiments recall - on a wider scale - the infamous **Tuskegee experiment** in which 400 southern black men with syphilis were left untreated. The men, who were not even told they had the disease, were "watched" for over 30 years to see what effect the untreated disease had on their mortality rate - and on their children. The hideous "medical experiment" was only stopped in 1972 when exposed by the press.

Many of the radiation experiments on human beings took place at the very moment that the US and its allies were condemning Nazi doctors at the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal for killing hundreds of concentration camp prisoners with chemical and germ warfare "experiments." Yet the American-British establishment which coldly incinerated over a million defenseless German and Japanese civilians in the WWII firebombings of Dresden, Tokyo and other cities, in addition to dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, was certainly in no position to pass judgment on the Nazi butchers.

In one case, US doctors actually repeated an "experiment" which SS doctors had performed in the Auschwitz death camp, namely, irradiating prisoners' genitals with massive doses of x-rays to determine the level that causes sterility. American researchers performed this test on 131 inmates at Oregon state and Washington state prisons from 1963 to 1971. According to the researchers' report, the victims had to agree in advance to undergo vasectomies after the "experiment" in order "to avoid any possibility of contaminating the general population with irradiation-induced mutants."

US leaders viewed the results of German experiments in chemical, biological and atomic warfare as prized war booty. A specialized strike force, the Alsos commandos, was formed to hunt down German laboratories, scientists and their data. Only 23 Nazi doctors and scientists were brought to trial for war crimes, and seven were acquitted of all charges - including one who had experimented on internees at Dachau. The "Angel of Death" Josef Mengele, the head doctor of Auschwitz, lived tranquilly - and openly - in the US occupied zone of Germany until 1950, when public indignation forced him to move to Latin America.

Similarly, all the members of the Japanese 731st Regiment - which killed thousands (mainly Chinese and Koreans) in biological warfare experiments using bubonic plague, anthrax and other diseases - were granted immunity from prosecution for war crimes by the US occupation authorities in exchange for turning over their data. A spokesman for Fort Detrick,

Maryland, the center of the US biological warfare program, recently explained: "we wanted to keep this information out of the hands of the Russians. Any war crimes trials would have exposed our own program" (San Francisco Examiner, 19 January).

In capitalist society, racial minorities, colonial and semicolonial slaves and the helpless - hospital patients, the mentally ill and retarded, the elderly - have always been the prime, often unwitting, subjects for medical experiments. In the early 20th century, treatments for beriberi and the plague were tested on poor peasants in the Philippines (this was cited by the Nazi doctors at Nuremberg).

As in the Nazi death camp experiments, the US government radiation research was carried out on those the racist ruling class considers "inferior" or "expendable." At the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, at least 90 terminal cancer patients - mostly poor, mostly black - were given lethal and near-lethal doses of full-body radiation in the 1960s and 1970s. As they collapsed in vomiting and dizziness from the radiation sickness, the tormented victims were made to take psychological tests. The stated purpose of this horrifying torture was "to provide knowledge of combat effectiveness of troops" in a nuclear war.

US capitalism [the SAGE-Corporate] is so profoundly racist that the military has even sought to develop chemical and germ warfare agents which selectively target black people. A lead article entitled "**Ethnic Weapons**" in the US Army Command's monthly Military Review (November 1970), citing the greater susceptibility of Central African people and their descendants to sickle-cell anemia, revealed that research was underway to uncover "innate differences in vulnerability to chemical agents between different populations."

The US government is known to have carried out tests of germ warfare agents against black people. In 1955 the CIA released whooping cough virus in Palmetto, Florida, killing a dozen people, to test its effectiveness as an "ethnic weapon" against blacks. In 1960, the Army released infection-bearing mosquitoes in Carver Village, an exclusively black town, causing outbreaks of typhoid, encephalitis, stillbirths and mysterious deaths. And in 1951 the US Navy released a biological warfare agent at its Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania supply depot, which was chosen because "there are employed large numbers of laborers, including many Negroes." The organism used to infect the workers (*Aspergillus Fumigatus*) was intended to simulate the fungus which causes valley fever, a disease which is ten times more fatal for blacks than whites.

Meanwhile, the US colony of Puerto Rico has been a testing ground for countless experimental products, such as the cancer-causing Agent Orange "defoliant" which the US used in Vietnam. In a vast "population control" experiment, over one-third of Puerto Rican women of child-bearing age, practically denied other means of contraception, were driven to accept "voluntary" sterilization. When Nationalist Party leader Pedro Albizu Campos declared that he had been subjected to radiation while locked up in San Juan's La Princesa prison in 1950, a government psychiatrist declared him "insane" despite photographic evidence of horrible burns on his back and feet. Today the US government still keeps its files on Albizu Campos under lock and key.

Nuclear First Strike Against the USSR

From the moment they acquired the atomic bomb, US rulers were straining at the bit to launch a nuclear first strike against the Soviet Union. This is stated in virtually all of the secret US military plans of the late 1940s and 1950s. For example, an April 1950 document by the National Security Council reiterates that US strategy was to "strike with our full weight... before the Soviet blow is actually delivered" (cited by David Rosenberg, "The Origins of Overkill," International Security, Spring 1983). An Air Force history states the main targets for nuclear attack were "urban industrial concentrations" which were "selected with the primary objective of the annihilation of population."

US rulers even formulated an elaborate plan for guerrilla warfare following a nuclear attack on the Soviet Union. The core of the special forces, which were to knock out any remaining centers of government and seize control of the country, was composed of the remnants of the army of the turncoat Russian General Andrei Vlasov, who had gone over to the Nazis during World War II, along with the former SS Einsatzgruppen (death squads). The idea of building an anti-Soviet invasion force around the former Vlasov army was the brainchild of the liberal George Kennan. In the early 1950s, these killers were integrated into the US Army as the nucleus of the present-day Green Berets.

What stayed the hand was not a commitment to "peace" as the liberals would have it, but rather, as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Omar Bradley declared in November 1950: "We might be in danger of losing" (Marc Trachtenberg, History and Strategy (1991)). An NSC document in the same year noted that US forces were "not now capable of conducting immediately a general military offensive against the USSR." US military officials had estimated the previous year that even if their entire arsenal of 133 atomic bombs was dropped on target it would leave 70 percent of the Soviet Union's industrial base intact, and the Red Army in Europe could retaliate by marching all the way to the Pyrenees.

Consequently, the Joint Chiefs of Staff [the madmen under the SAGE, consumed by the "enemy", not all privy to the SAGE Agenda, yet all so willing to commit holocaust] recommended that the US "delay a general war with Russia until we have achieved the necessary degree of military and industrial mobilization." The National Security Council placed "A-Day" (the date when the US would be ready to launch a nuclear attack on the Soviet Union) in 1954. And in that year, the Joint Chiefs of Staff presented President Eisenhower with a secret document which reportedly called for "deliberately precipitating war with the USSR in the near future." A summary of the plan stated that with some 700 nuclear bombs, "virtually all of Russia would be nothing but a smoking, radiating ruin at the end of two hours" (Michio Kaku and Daniel Axelrod, To Win a Nuclear War (1987)). However, in the meanwhile the Soviet Union had, in 1949, developed its own atomic bomb, and in 1954 the Soviet Union perfected intercontinental bombers which could reach the American mainland.

Historically, the rise of capitalism was accompanied by the development of modern science and led to the tremendous development of productive forces. But the capitalist system in decline produces economic depression, world wars and famine on the scale of continents. Today science, technology and even medicine have been transformed from tools of production and healing into instruments of destruction, torment and slaughter on a vast scale. **The nuclear-armed madmen who rule over the decaying capitalist system are a clear and present danger to life on the entire planet.** [based on Fidonet research, various sources, with inserts, 1994; additional confirmation and further research materials are widely available on the Internet]

MM Addendum 1-12

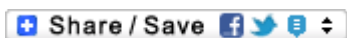
The SAGE agenda has repeatedly demonstrated its savagery: 75+ million killed in WWI and WWII; an estimated 80 million culled by Stalin; three million Koreans and Chinese slain in the Korean War; two million Vietnamese; tens of thousands of Iraqis murdered in the slaughter of the first Persian Gulf War, and over one million dead as a consequence of the West's starvation blockade and destruction of infrastructure; tens of thousands killed in the Balkan's and now again ten's of thousands killed in the second Iraq War, including Afghanistan; not to mention the hundreds of thousands of allied and US troops killed, who went to war in the defense of their country, unwitting pawns under SAGE control — **this barbaric system of racism, oppression and mass murder has been exposed – this is dangerous knowledge – if we remain silent we give silent approval to our continued complicity (no longer unknown) in this insane-evil systemic –** what are we going to do about it? – disinvestment and [systemic] expatriation is the beginning, the first step.

MM Book 1 and 2, MM Addendum 1 and 2

Mammon or Messiah [home page](#)

Operation Northwoods [article link](#)

The Free Dictionary [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:09 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Friday, March 12, 2010

[Seiler & Hamburg: A Challenge to Corporate Feudalism?](#)

A Challenge to Corporate Feudalism?

by Lewis Seiler & Dan Hamburg [article link](#) [article link](#)

Thursday, March 11th, 2010 Common Dreams

"[T]he powers of financial capitalism had another far-reaching aim, nothing less than to create a world system of financial control in private hands able to dominate the political system of each country and the economy of the world as a whole. This system was to be controlled in a feudalist fashion by the central banks of the world acting in concert, by secret agreements arrived at in frequent private meetings and conferences." --Prof. Carroll Quigley, *Tragedy and Hope*, 1966

For the first time in more than four decades, a militant student movement is taking shape across the country. This movement is in direct response to the IMF-style "austerity measures" being waged against all American citizens in the form of new mandatory taxes and a range of government-imposed belt-tightening measures designed to restore "fiscal responsibility." Students are facing astronomical increases in tuition (32% in California's famed UC system), expanding class sizes, loss of vital programs in the arts, music, technical and physical education. 19,000 California public school teachers have received pink slips and 20,000 students will be turned away from community colleges next fall. Add in thousands more support staff facing layoffs, cutbacks, and shrunken benefit packages and you have a mass of angry students, educators, and workers.

Of course, nearly all Americans are feeling the pinch. **Nationwide, 50 million people need to use food stamps to eat. 50 million have no health care, with 60% of bankruptcies resulting from medical emergencies. Americans have lost \$5 trillion from their pensions and savings and \$13 trillion in the value of their homes since the latest economic crisis began. The real unemployment rate is over 20% with 30 million US citizens unemployed or underemployed. Deutsche Bank predicts that the number of 'underwater' loans may rise to 48 percent, or 25 million homes by 2011. Every day 10,000 US homes enter into foreclosure. 60% of Americans live from paycheck to paycheck.**

But it's the students who offer the best potential to make change happen. Unburdened by mortgages and families, young people have the least to lose and the most to gain by overcoming a trend that is turning the majority of U.S. citizens into modern day serfs. And it's students' newfound understanding of the linkage between neoliberal economics and the collapse of public education that may push the kind of change that Barack Obama never imagined in his wildest dreams.

As Will Parrish and Darwin Bond-Graham write in their latest column for Counterpunch titled "WE Make the University Crisis": "Something new is afoot here."

This new student movement, informed by both the successes and failures of movements past, has the potential to probe more deeply into the inherent flaws that plague the American system and thus to achieve more in the way of establishing something closer to real democracy. Young people are especially fed up with seeing public dollars line the pockets of the economic elites while education, and steady employment, increasingly become an unattainable dream. Those young people tenacious and fortunate enough to make it through the system leave school saddled with crushing debt and facing a job market that is dicey at best.

Even as students in large numbers begin to pick up their placards and march, occupy offices and blockade freeway ramps, the state's machinery of repression is oiled-up and ready to roll. A recent article in Harper's magazine titled "The Soft-Kill Solution" describes in grisly detail the expanding arsenal of non-lethal weapons being developed and tested for crowd control, mostly with government funding. **The United States now hosts on its soil battle-hardened army brigades trained in places like Fallujah to deal with civil unrest. In a previous post to this site, we discussed HR 645, a bill to establish six command-and-control "emergency centers" under the direction of FEMA and located throughout the continental United States. We have also pointed to the series of single-bid contracts that the Army Corps of Engineers has entered into with Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) to build detention camps at undisclosed locations.** ("Rule by Fear or Rule by Law," Common Dreams, 2/4/08)

The latest bombshell is the "**Enemy Belligerent, Interrogation, Detention, and Prosecution Act of 2010**" recently reported by Marc Ambinder on The Atlantic website. This bill, introduced by Sens. John McCain and Joseph Lieberman this month, sets out a comprehensive policy for the detention, interrogation and trial of "suspected enemy belligerents who are believed to have engaged in hostilities against the United States requiring these individuals to be held in military custody, interrogated for their intelligence value and not provided with a Miranda warning."

McCain/Lieberman, which does not distinguish between U.S. persons-visa holders or citizens-and non-U.S. persons., appears to be a follow-up to California Rep. Jane Harman's Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act which ultimately failed in Sen. Susan Collins's Homeland Security Committee. Obama may have rebranded Bush's War on Terror as an "overseas contingency operation," but it's clear that the war continues both on foreign lands and right here at home. Those old enough to remember COINTELPRO and more recently, John Poindexter's Total Information Awareness (TIA) program won't be surprised at any of this.

McCain/Lieberman asks the President to determine criteria for designating an individual as a "high-value detainee" if he/she (1) poses a threat of an attack on civilians or civilian facilities with the U.S. or U.S. facilities abroad; (2) poses a threat to U.S. military personnel or U.S. military facilities; (3) has potential intelligence value; (4) is a member of al Qaeda or a terrorist group affiliated with al Qaeda; or (5) is deemed such based on "other matters the President considers appropriate." Determination of whether an individual is a "high-value detainee" is to be made by the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General after consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, the FBI and the CIA. As Ambinder glibly notes, "The President himself doesn't get to make the call."

A very noxious brew is being cooked up here. First, the elites, lurking in the shadows behind a neutered government, squeeze the vast majority of citizens, workers, and students, moving their jobs overseas, foreclosing on their homes, looting their savings, stealing their hopes and dreams. When they rebel, they are gassed, tased, shot with rubber bullets, and have their nervous systems attacked with high-tech non-lethal weaponry. If they persist in their protests, they will be jailed (according to a new report cited by David DeGraw on Alternet, "a new prison opens every week somewhere in America") without habeus corpus or rights to trial. They can then be detained indefinitely in camps. They can even be disappeared.

Yes, disappeared as in murdered. It may be hard to believe but just last month it was none other than President Obama's very own Director of National Intelligence, Dennis Blair who acknowledged in a congressional hearing that "the U.S. may, with executive approval, deliberately target and kill U.S. citizens who are suspected of being involved in terrorism."

This is America as it moves into the second decade of the 21st century. All we can say is that we the people better wake up fast, before there's nothing worth waking up for.

Lewis Seiler is president of Voice of the Environment [1]. Dan Hamburg, a former US congressman, is executive director.

Voice of the Environment [home page](#)
CommonDreams [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:27 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Allison Kilkenny: Normalizing The Police State

Normalizing The Police State (and how it ends with taser-firing drones)

By Allison Kilkenny [article link](#)

March 10, 2010 "True/Slant"

... A school in Pennsylvania is accused of covertly activating webcams in school-issued laptops to spy on students. The accusations have generated a lot of outrage, but this is the logical conclusion of the country's general movement toward a police state. If the NSA can wiretap citizens' phones, the FBI can infiltrate protest groups, and the police can generally dominate and suppress any kind of protest, why shouldn't schools be able to monitor student activity?

Americans have already accepted forms of police brutality (macing, sound cannons, tasing) as the inevitable punishments for exercising their First Amendment rights. They have already submitted to the bureaucratic requirements of permits (permits to gather, permits to use a bullhorn,) and the ridiculous spectacle of caged protests where activists are literally penned behind gates and cannot move from their designated locations as they "exercise" their "freedom of speech."

When the protest spills past the acceptable parameters of activism, the police state shocks the citizenry back into submission. They taser, and mace, and deafen people until they stop fighting. ...

... **Here we have the completion of the perfect police state.** Citizens are monitored from cradle to grave. Any signs of anger or rebellion are swiftly squelched with medication or "peace officers." The schools step in when the state cannot act to monitor and regulate every movement of students' lives under the banner of "Zero Tolerance."

When the medicated and monitored children grow into dysfunctional adults, some of who eventually realize their shitty circumstances (complete with shitty healthcare, outsourced jobs, limited resources, poisoned environment, enormous wealth disparity, etc.) and they think about rebelling, they are immediately lassoed with an anchor of bureaucracy. Should you want to protest, please fill out form AYT0754 five months prior to said protest, and pay this fee, and remain in this pen, and please don't make too much noise...

Those few brave souls that break through this wall and do manage to protest are put down at Stage 2 of the Police State with weaponry: mace, sound cannons, tasers, and whatever else the Pentagon desires to test on them. The state will only be too happy to use opiate weaponry next. What a nice, neat way to stop activism! Spray a little Happy in the herd's face and watch them wander off, smiling.

Sinclair Lewis said, "**When fascism comes to America it will be wrapped in the flag and carrying a cross.**" I think people expect the end of America's free society to look like a violent apocalyptic scene in some Hollywood film, but that's not how it will happen. Government officials figured out that suppressing riots with bullets is bad PR. They have learned to do it quietly, and in a way where they can claim they're being humane about the whole thing. Look! We don't shoot people anymore! We taser them!

The end product is the same, though. Rebellion is suppressed. Activism is thwarted. ...

Information Clearing House [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:22 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Bob Chapman: Pondering Our Collapse

Pondering Our Collapse While We Watch Others Fall

Structural Weakness of the US Dollar. The Dollar Rally will not last

by Bob Chapman [article link](#) [article link](#)

Global Research, March 10, 2010

... **The collapse of currencies and nations won't happen overnight, because their demise has been planned, and a subtle collapse is in process. Our guess is that next year is when the collapse will finally take place followed by one of the greatest deflationary depressions of all time.** During the last 2-1/2 years all the toxic investments have been and will continue to be transferred from the Illuminist banks, brokerage houses, insurance companies and transnational conglomerates to the public. The Federal Reserve is the repository for this junk, which includes Treasuries and Agencies. That means the public foots the bill. **Every government and bank in the world will be affected.** This magical game of 3-card-Monte will never work and the Illuminists know it won't work. That is why they have war on demand to distract the public and to escape punishment for the devastating thing they have brought upon mankind. What we are facing is as bad if not worse than the collapse of the Lombard system in Venice in 1348, the year of the plague and the collapse of the Hanseatic League in the 1600s, the creation of the Medici's. **For starters we already have 19 bankrupt or near bankrupt major countries and many others that will be pulled into the vortex of financial and economic calamity. In each country we see the Illuminists doing their evil work, legends in their own minds, in a system that they know cannot survive.** They are waiting for orders to pull the plug in each and every country. These masters of the universe all know that prosperity cannot be created by printing money and issuing credit indefinitely. They know full well that such a system cannot survive. ...

... We conclude that the Fed will continue to provide low interest rates and vast liquidity to the US and world financial systems. The Volcker Rule" will be used to deflect criticism, but little will change unless we can get rid of the Fed. The excesses and bubbles will go on unless the Fed is disarmed. **What is really distressing is that none of the financial media, nor alternative media, points out that the Fed is at the root of this credit crisis. They caused it and it was done deliberately.**

The idea of too big to fail will persist even after any deflationary collapse. **Nothing will change unless the elitists want it to change - the concept is at the base of power in the financial world.** This finance bubble can only be disrupted by the failure of national economies. There are 19 in that position presently, and what it boils down to is whether and when these elitists want to pull the plug on liquidity and seriously want to enter a deflationary era. For the time being, over the next 18 months, inflation and perhaps hyperinflation will prevail. Politicians are 90% in the pockets of these people, so unless we can unseat more than half of the incumbents in Congress, the elitist grip on our society will prevail. In the meantime it is inflation and or hyperinflation followed by deflation this year and next year.

As a result investors are in a tear again buying stocks and bonds with obviously little fear of any consequences. They have forgotten what we just went through and the chance of that reoccurring is excellent. They are of course in league with those who are doing "God's work." This is representative of those on Wall Street, who said they could not have seen what was coming. They made billions of dollars and walked away from destroying our economy scott-free. These people are not stupid, thus, they are liars, gloating over their riches and how the public cannot touch them because they own the politicians, regulatory agencies and the courts.

Greece and 18 other countries have financial problems, but just as much in trouble are the states – some 40 of them. The states cannot print money, so they'll have to face the music. They'll all have to face austerity, which is the anti-thesis of growth, which creates a death spiral and perpetual recession or depression. The only alternative, short of a deflationary depression, is to expand money and credit.

The dollar rally we have seen over the past couple of months could soon be coming to an end, as world deflation reasserts itself. The surge and undertow of deflation has to be met with ever more inflation to offset it. The bubbles that fueled inflation, the stock market of the late 1990s and the real estate bubbles are long past gone. All that is left is massive credit.

Just as in the 1930s the Federal Reserve will eventually take us into a deflationary depression. That is what Greece was all about. The table is being set for the end of inflation probably within the next two years.

We see a general contraction of credit worldwide and unless reversed the inevitable will unfold. What is even more dangerous than in the 1930s is the enormous leverage that exists today. When this come down it will be with a thundering roar. That is because few have the ability to pay. **It is totally inconceivable that the US government can pay back its liabilities. That means that other nations that hold 60-1/2% of their foreign exchange in US dollars will take tremendous losses from which they won't easily recover. China and Japan, along with Middle East oil producers, will take unbelievable losses. All creditors will be big losers.**

In this wringer no nation seems to want to reduce spending or is prepared for any kind of austerity. Greece is a good example. Each day sees more and more demonstrations. No one wants to take the economic and financial pain. The good days are supposed to go on endlessly. Not only does the public not want reduced employment, but they also do not want increased taxation. **What is extremely interesting is that those in charge of monetary theory at the Fed know that monetary inflation does not work. They also know that the minute they can no longer control deflation with inflationary monetary policy the game is over.** The Fed and other central banks are currently playing a very dangerous game. That is keeping inflation up, but only enough to stop hyperinflation. This is like sitting on the edge of a knife. One false move the game is over. Global credit is evaporating and the Fed and others are attempting at the same time to remove some of the excess in the system. We do not think it will work. If it does not work it is depression for many years to come.

As this transpires lending to individuals and small and medium size businesses have fallen some 16% to 20% dependent on whose figures you use. On a national basis credit, some \$700 billion to \$1 trillion has been lost.

If you put this all together you will find that the only logical outcome can be devaluations, multilateral debt default and a deflationary depression. That is ultimately where we are headed and where we have always been headed. ...

... A few months ago when we wrote of deflation over the next couple of years and when we spoke of it as well on radio, we were attacked for such utterances. We have known what the end game has been for 50 years. Few others have. Almost all never saw and still do not see the Illuminists final solution to bring about world government. If you do not understand that you can never grasp the true situation and its logical conclusion. Most who eventually understand will be too late. The remainder will never know what hit them. All currencies are linked to the US dollar and there lies the word's weakness. As the dollar goes, so does all other currencies, especially in view of the fact that nations have far less gold today than previously, if any at all. We really do not have any idea what gold reserves are, because they all lie about everything. **This is why we expect multilateral devaluation and debt settlement as well as tariffs on goods and services. We expect that charge to be led by England as they break away from the European Union.**

China is taking its own course, and will continue to dump dollars as best they can. They see trade tariffs on the horizon. China is now challenging Japan in trade, as the US acts in its own interests against both countries. Due to their large dollar denominated holdings the US dollar has to head lower as US debt continues to pile up, only to be monetized. US, Wall Street, banking and government just do not care. They just keep running up debt, running the economy and finances into the ground. **Due to this course of action over the past 25 to 30 years they have now made China, Japan and others into adversaries. Next comes the big fall in the dollar and sometime over the next two years the multilateral devaluations and defaults. Foreigners hold \$3.3 trillion in US debt and the US is going to get a good part of it back, which will push the country into bankruptcy.**

The US is in a box and they cannot get out. There is no viable exit other than bankruptcy. This is why you have to have gold and silver related assets. It is impossible to pay off debt. This time it is really different. Based on history America is financial toast. The path for destruction was set on August 15, 1971, when America fled the gold standard. It took 38 years but it is time to pay the piper. ... [excellent detailed article continues]

The International Forecaster [home page](#)
Global Research [home page](#)

Banking for the People

Comment

by JOHN NICHOLS [article link](#)

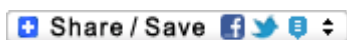
March 11, 2010 The Nation

Even if financial services reforms are finally enacted at the federal level, it is unlikely they will create a banking system that serves the interests of Main Street America or the great mass of citizens who do the work and pay the taxes yet reap few of the benefits of this nation's immense wealth. But what if that great mass of citizens owned the banks?

That's a question that a growing number of candidates and legislators across the country are answering with **proposals to create state-owned banks**. Though these initiatives borrow from an old model--North Dakota has run a successful state bank since 1919--they are a response to a new reality: the hundreds of billions of public dollars plowed into big banks by the federal bailout have done little to free credit for job creation or economic development in recession-ravaged communities. So, taking a cue from Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz and other critics of private-bank bailouts, **latter-day populists are proposing to put public money to work for the public good.** ... (article continues)

... The prospect of what might be done with all the money that has flowed from the federal Treasury to private banks has some players talking of taking the North Dakota model national. At a Nation magazine "Meltdown" event a year ago, Stiglitz suggested, **"If we had used the \$700 billion to create a new financial institution, allowed it to lever 10 to 1, which is very modest compared to the 30 to 1 that we were doing--10 to 1 would have generated \$7 trillion of new lending capacity, far in excess of what our country needs. So the issue here is not about lending. It's really about saving the bankers. And what we confused was saving the banks versus saving the bankers and their shareholders."** Yet as Washington struggles with the task of imposing basic regulation on big banks, the action will be in the states. How likely is that? Hardmeyer used to doubt that the North Dakota model would ever be adopted elsewhere. Now, he says, "when I look around the country, it's not quite as far a leap as I once thought it was."

The Nation [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:35 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Doug Casey: Surviving Financial Apocalypse Now](#)

Doug Casey on Surviving Financial Apocalypse Now

Interviewed by Louis James, Editor, International Speculator [article link](#)

March 11, 2010 LewRockwell

... L: Most people feel that they should do right by their friends – government's don't have friends, and most see their citizens as being property, like cattle, that require the state's permission to do anything. Inflating the currency isn't a crime in their view, just a tool for controlling the dumb masses. But it's really taxation without representation.

Doug: Sadly so. And since the institution of government is based on force, on compulsion, they feel they have every right to do what they want. They sanitize all types of criminality by saying it's in "the national interest" or some such poppycock.

L: Okay... but these currencies have worked for a very long time. Why are you right about this and the rest of the world wrong? Why is it inevitable that government currencies will fail?

Doug: [Chuckles] Because governments are not living persons who care and can be motivated to do the right thing. They are collections of individuals – politicians and bureaucrats, not exactly the most desirable types – who pursue their own

interests. Regardless of the rhetoric, their interests coincide with the public good only on occasion, like a broken clock being right twice a day. Even in the most enlightened times – even in the best of times – governments have huge incentives to spend more than they take in. These are not the best of times; the population has been trained for generations to expect subsidies and freebies as their due, without regard to who pays or how they will be paid.

I'll give you an example. When I was on the Phil Donahue Show, the day before the national elections in 1980, I was making the same philosophical points I am now. I explained how they, the taxpayers, would pay for all the goodies – like Social Security and unemployment compensation – that they wanted. A middle-aged guy in the audience asked: "Well, why can't the government pay for these things?" And the rest of the audience roared approval.

It was then that I first realized that resistance was futile and the situation was basically hopeless. And that someone who can seem perfectly sensible when he's discussing sports, or the weather, or the state of the roads, was likely to be a moron when it came to economics. And that when he became part of a crowd, it was even worse: he might transform into an imbecile or even an idiot.

Anyway, the dollar has existed for many years, even though it's degraded over time – first with the creation of the Federal Reserve in 1913, then with the repudiation of domestic gold redeemability in 1933, then with the repudiation of international redeemability in 1971. Even though the government has created trillions of new ones, the dollar is still thought of as some kind of a cosmic standard. In point of fact, it's no better than the Argentine peso and will have the same fate.

These IOUs have a quite ephemeral reality and are far too easy to create – there's literally no limit at this point. We don't even have to actually print them anymore, they're created by computer strokes – so it's unrealistic to expect fiscal restraint on the part of any government over time. It's just too tempting to spend money to make people feel richer than they really are, buying votes.

L: Looking at the deficits and national debt, it certainly seems so.

Doug: The national debt – when was the last time you heard any average person worry about the national debt? Americans have become so used to carrying huge loads of debt around – right out of college with student loans – that it doesn't even occur to them that there could be any reason for concern over the national debt. It's an abstraction, like the number of light years to the Andromeda Galaxy.

People used to at least pay attention, though most would say, "It's not a problem, we owe it to ourselves." But that was always a delusion. Some people, organized in a club called the government, borrowed it from some other people. But now it's even more dangerous, because the U.S. government owes it mostly to foreigners: the Chinese, the Japanese, the Taiwanese, and so forth. Americans, who at least theoretically have some interest in keeping the U.S. government straight, are tapped out. So it's gone to borrow from other societies. And they won't like it if they are left holding a bunch of worthless IOUs at the end of this experiment.

As the world political situation continues to deteriorate towards something I think will vaguely resemble World War III, the chances are excellent that a U.S. government at the end of its financial rope will default, likely by radically devaluing its dollar. They're way past thinking in millions. They don't even think in billions anymore; they're up to trillions. Soon Obama will have to ask the buffoon he appointed as a science advisor what comes after trillions. Those nice foreigners who gave Americans physical wealth in exchange for pieces of paper are going to find that, indeed, all they got was a bunch of paper. Maybe not even that, but just ledger entries representing pieces of paper.

It's not just the Chinese and Japanese governments that are going to be unhappy. But hundreds of millions of individuals around the world – in places from Russia to the Congo, to Mexico, to Thailand – that have a trillion of the things under their mattresses, because they justifiably don't trust their own government's paper, are going to be even more unhappy with the U.S.

This is big trouble. It's not just another economic downturn when scores of millions find their life savings go "poof." **What we're looking at is a cataclysm at some point soon. I hate to sound inflammatory, but I think the situation is much, much more explosive than it appears on the surface, much worse than you see on the TV news. ...**

... Doug: There's a titanic battle right now between the forces of inflation and deflation. When a big corporation like General Motors, or Fannie or Freddie, defaults on its debt, hundreds of billions of dollars disappear. Assets people thought they had and could have been converted into cash disappear. That's deflationary. In a sound banking system, in which money is a commodity like gold, money can't disappear. It can change ownership, but it can't disappear. But in our current system, it can dry up and blow away as easily as it can be created.

One major problem that stems from this is that some people benefit from government money creation and some don't. Who gets to spend it first, when it's most valued, and who gets stuck holding the Old Maid card when it vanishes? It's usually the little guy – the middle-class guy – who gets hurt when this happens. And in the U.S., the middle class is contracting. **The financial gyrations we're going through are destroying the middle class, which naïvely believes that traditional American values still hold sway and that their government is honest. The lower class has long since lost any values, and the upper class is way too cynical and self-interested to really care. Most middle-class people will end up joining one or the other of these two classes, and that'll be a moral disaster for the country.**

America used to be a place where class wasn't really important, and you could move between classes easily – not at all like Europe or the Orient. **But as the middle class gets squeezed, we're likely to get class warfare between those on top and those on the bottom.**

L: One way to look at the inflation/deflation debate is that even if we do in fact have financial asset destruction – a kind of deflation – on a scale necessary to outdo the truly phenomenal amounts of money creation the U.S. and other governments are engaged in, the implied destruction is just as bad as hyperinflation. **The number of banks and other financial institutions that would fail – and with so many people having 401Ks and online brokerage accounts, the number of people whose savings and pension plans would be wiped out – would be truly cataclysmic.** That's what it would take to balance the wanton inflation of the money supply we now see in progress. If that's the cure, it, too, is deadly.

Doug: I think that's fair to say. Either way, it's going to be really serious. As I pointed out a few minutes ago, when you have runaway inflation in a place like Zimbabwe, where most people are living on a subsistence level, people with gardens and chickens will get hurt, but they'll still get by. It's not the same when the world's wealthiest and most advanced economies are falling apart. **Americans are going to see a serious drop in their standard of living, which they are completely unprepared for, and it's going to be a disaster.** They don't have gardens and chickens to tide them over. There's no way around it.

L: Which brings us back to why. I mean, I'm sure many people can see the picture you've painted, but why is it inevitable?

Doug: Because the U.S. government and others like it are between a rock and a hard place. It is simply not a politically acceptable option to step back and let the market correct the gross misallocations and distortions the government has imposed on the economy. They must "do something" – even if they know full well it's the wrong thing. And "doing something" means spending without raising taxes too much, because they know too much of that will slam the coffin on the economy they are trying to resuscitate. Spending on "stimuli" to "fix" the economy – direct spending on bribes to voters, like extending unemployment "benefits" to years and offering them "free" health care, etc... the way things are structured, the government must spend. Not spending is unthinkable.

There are only two ways to pay for that. They can borrow, which they can only do if they raise interest rates enough to make their bonds attractive, and that, too, would pull the plug on what you so colorfully called the "iron lung economy." And they can print money, which they can do with some impunity, hoping the bill won't come due until some other poor fool is in office – but that destroys the dollar sooner or later.

Everything we've seen shows that they are doing what is predictable for politicians, since they can appear to be "doing something" with the consequences left to the future: they are destroying the dollar.

The U.S. government is going to be running trillion-dollar deficits as far as the eye can see. Again, they can't borrow it while keeping interest rates low, so they are going to sell their bonds to themselves, which is to say the Federal Reserve, and inflation is going to explode. There simply is no painless choice, and it's very close to being totally out of control. ... (article continues)

Doug Casey is a best-selling author and chairman of [Casey Research, LLC.](#), publishers of [Casey's International Speculator](#).
Copyright © 2010 Casey and Associates

LewRockwell [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:16 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

[Mammon's Instrumentation Of Evil](#)

MM Book 1 Chapter 1-3

We have been inured by a concept, a category of thought ... in our pockets is a weapon of war, a weapon of mass destruction, which cumulatively has killed more people, destroyed more lives, has wrought more environmental destruction than any other weapon ever devised by man – it is an ancient weapon, and it claims all: this weapon demands sacrifice [blood and sweat], it demands complete surrender and obedience, it demands "worship" – all life is equated with this weapon, its use **is** the "means" of life [all is acquired by violent use of this weapon]; all blessings and punishments are equated, peace and happiness are equated, status and "worth" for life are equated, mind [very thought] is equated [intellectual "property"], even God is equated with this weapon [the ultimate lie]; we are governed by this weapon, it is held over our heads and to our throats, lest we should think or speak against it – this weapon of war is regarded as a weapon of peace, as the very cure for the disease that "it" actually is – we [all of us], by **use** of this weapon **become** the enemy, our enemy, and by its use we are committing collective suicide; **this weapon is an instrumentation of evil, and we personify evil by its use** – this weapon is known by all, sought by all, and excused by all; all is done in its name and service: THIS WEAPON [OF EVIL] IS MONEY*, AND OUR USE OF IT !! – this weapon **is** absolute [idol] power and author-ity and conveys such to those who wield and control it !! **[as corporate debt-instrument]*

MM Book 1 Chapter 1-4

There are writings thousands of years old warning about this weapon and its use; **God's Word explains for us two "ways of life": a "society of the gift" [giving life (God) to us], or a "society of the take" [taking life from us];** all prophecy, as determinant [not prediction], lays out the choice for us [the blessings and cursings], and gives us the example of our ancestors [Israel], those chosen [small in number and in slavery] and called out of the world's systemic, to create the alternative, by introducing God to the world, and applying Him in the world, yet the Bible relates the story of Israel's failure, and the story remains the same today [physically and spiritually] !! – MAMMON [the "business" of] **or** MESSIAH continues as our choice !! – the equating of Mammon with Messiah is our present state of being: BABYLON [confusion by mixing (God is not the author(-ity) of confusion)], where money [corporatized as weapon] is **equated** with life !! – to give consideration or regard to its use, to be a friend or an associate [support and maintenance] of it, IS THE ROOT [cause] OF ALL EVIL !! – **the corporate nation, society and church are wholly opposed to our God(-ing), and must be **withdrawn** from [Moses], we must **return** to our God [Elijah] !!** – we must have a clean heart and washed hands [innocency]; we must behave wisely and in a perfect way; we must despise [hate] the evil [work] !! – we must recognize God as [our] enabler !!

MM Book 1 Chapter 1-5

The corporate, as “definition of life”, must be rejected in total: GOD *IS* LIFE !! – OUR “SYSTEMIC MIND” MUST BE OF GOD !! – we must “exult” God [prepare the paths; remove the stumbling-blocks]; God has been made irrelevant – Hab. 3:17 systemic failure looming: our selfish mass coveting results in privation for all !! – **the whole concept of “money” as we know it [mind it], is a contagion, DEEP SPIRITUAL ILLNESS !! – selfishness knows no bounds, it is a cancer, consuming all !! – the whole “business” concept of life [as means, as prejudiced claim (Nation-State, society, privilege, etc.), the adversarial competition] must be absolutely rejected, it is anti-God !! – each one of us is responsible for all aspects of our society, the privileged, monied pride, and the abject poverty [physically/spiritually]; it is easy to forsake others when our own human-ity [sodality (our fellowship, brotherhood)] has been abandoned – the specter [object of fear, of dread] of business [as mind] is God(-ing): all iniquity *purged* by mercy and truth !! — the physical is a reflection of the spiritual, and our society fits the definition: monied privilege [in the physical; supported by massive debt of claim] existing in abject poverty [spiritually; including the COG Inc., Laodicean spiritual condition]; the debt burden oppresses and controls most; all claim and its social resultant “poverty” [the commodification of life] is a result of our collective spiritual poverty, our lack of God !!**

MM Book 1 Chapter 1 [web page](#)

MM Book 1 [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:25 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

What Is Money?

What is MONEY?

Thinking about money in this society is like being a fish wondering about the nature of water. We build our lives around money, we live money, we breathe money, we swim in it like fish in the sea. Millions of people spend (so to speak) 40 hours a week, 50 weeks a year doing nothing but playing with money - printing it, minting it, counting it, recounting it, taking it from here, sending it there, juggling it, smuggling it... sitting in offices in huge buildings making phone calls and shuffling bits of paper, adding and re-adding endless columns of numbers to make sure that they come out exactly the same... yeah, but... "I don't know what money is today, and I don't think anybody at the Fed does either." -Richard Pratt, Chairman of the Board of the Federal Home Loan Bank, 1982.

Money is Inevitable: money is not an accident, neither was it the "invention" of some particularly progressive culture or clever individual. Money in various forms has arisen independently, in different ages and on every continent, wherever the local economy has evolved beyond the level of subsistence. Wherever there is surplus, trade inevitably follows, and primitive barter economies progress almost inevitably to money economies, as certain articles of recognized usefulness slowly come to symbolize wealth and are accepted at a fixed value. In an area where cattle are the common form of wealth, money is born when a cow comes to have the value of 1 cow, regardless of its size, weight, health, or other physical characteristics.

From there the process of abstraction continues: cattle come [to] be represented by tokens bearing pictures of cattle, the tokens evolve into coins symbolizing value in general, and on down to our own day where value is symbolized by marks on paper and the magnetic configurations of silicon wafers. And the inevitability of money is clear even in the present day. Wherever national governments have attempted to impose worthless currencies as the means of exchange, black markets dealing in "hard" currencies have arisen. This phenomenon perhaps reached the peak of absurdity in the 1970s in Communist Laos, where the official money of the country was the "kip", but the only money accepted by the Laotian government was the US dollar.

Money is Inequality: John Locke thought that money arose before society, and that by its use people have consented to class society: "it is plain, that Men have agreed to disproportionate and unequal possession of the Earth, they having by a

tacit and voluntary consent found out a way, how a man may fairly possess more land than he himself can use the product of, by receiving in exchange for the overplus, Gold and Silver, which may be hoarded up without injury to any one, these metals not spoiling or decaying in the hands of the possessor. This partage of things, in an inequality of private possessions, men have made practicable out of the bounds of Society, and without compact, only by putting a value on gold and silver and tacitly agreeing in the use of Money."

Georg Simmel, writing two hundred years later, was not nearly so naive about the nature of money and society. Simmel recognized that money is "entirely a social institution", and said that "when barter is replaced by money transactions, a third factor is introduced between the two parties: the community as a whole, which provides a real value corresponding to money." Those who become "rich" are those who manage to monopolize big chunks of the social wealth for their own ends. Far from being a tacit agreement, this is done despite the sometimes violent resistance of those whose share of the social wealth is being taken away.

The division of labor in society depends on a money economy, and so does capitalism. It's very hard to extract surplus value in a system based on barter exchange. The growth of the state has gone hand in hand with the growth of the money economy. The emerging nation-states imposed taxes payable only in money, replacing taxes payable in kind and driving more and more people into alienated labor and the money economy. Like S. Herbert Frankel says, "a trustworthy, disciplined monetary system is indispensable for the free unfolding of the extended division of labor on which the growth of world economies depends - a reliable standard in which long-term debts can be expressed is indispensable for the growth of capital."

So capitalists didn't invent money - but perhaps we can say that money invented capitalism. For once money has been born into the world it quickly begins to recreate the world in its own image.

Money Is Midas: like King Midas, money turns everything it touches to gold, or at least into commodities that can be exchanged for gold. Unique living beings become standardized things. "Trade is the reduction and quantification of the world to commodity equivalents, the leveller of quality, skill, and concrete labor to numerical units that can be measured by time and money, clocks and gold" -Murray Bookchin, author *The Ecology of Freedom*.

And as money itself becomes more abstract and divorced from concrete reality, so do the society and people that use it. As Simmel puts it, "the increasing replacement of metal money by paper money and the various forms of credit unavoidably react upon the character of money. In roughly the same way as in personal relations when somebody allows himself to be represented by others, so that finally he receives no greater esteem than is accorded his representatives. The idea that life is essentially based on intellect, and that intellect is accepted in practical life as the most valuable of our mental energies, goes hand in hand with the growth of a money economy."

Money Is What Money Does: featured on the back of the Swiss 1000 franc note, the highest valued item of currency in regular circulation in the world, is a figure of the Grim Reaper.

Money Is the Secret Name of All Things: in many ancient cultures, to know the name of something was to control it, to have power over it. In the Christian Bible, Adam is given authority over the animals of the world when God allows him to name them. In the underworld of the ancient Egyptians, the dead had to pass through a series of gates to reach the Kingdom of Osiris, the Land of the Blessed. The key to passing through each gate was to know the secret name of the gate and the secret name of the gatekeeper. Today everyone and everything has the same secret name: MONEY.

Money Is A Pyramid Scheme: it's highly appropriate that there's a picture of a pyramid on the back of the US dollar bill, because money is the original pyramid scheme. Here's how it works: you go to work to help make something for the boss. At the end of the week you get a few pieces of paper that are a promise that somebody else will give you some stuff you want. So you worked all week for the promise of a promise - but where did the boss get the money to pay you? Well, either he sold the stuff that you had already made for him (and pocketed his share), or he "borrowed" it. And where did this "borrowed" money come from? From a bank - and where did the bank get it? In small part from somebody like you, who had some money to save, who wanted to wait a while to cash in their promises. So the bank gives the money to the boss, who gives it back to you - and all this works just fine, most of the time. The only problem is when everyone wants to cash

in their promises all at once and they find out there are more promises than stuff. Every pyramid scheme eventually crashes.

Money Is A Disease: a 1972 report in the Journal of the American Medical Association found 21 different disease-causing microorganisms living on samples of paper money. 42% of the bills tested carried one or more of the pathogens.

Money Is Freedom, Money Is Slavery; Money Is Community, Money Is Alienation; Money Is A Paradox. What money gives on one level it takes away on another. Money frees us to realize our wildest desires - money is pure choice - but at the same time it binds us to a system of wage slavery in which we have to sell our time to survive. Money strengthens our connections to our fellow human by tying us into a system of production that makes us all mutually dependent - but at the same time it cheapens and destroys even the most intimate of our interpersonal relations by reducing them to the level of commodity exchanges.

Locke celebrated the fact that "money replaced the utter dependence on nature by a new dependence, a dependence on other individuals and on society." Locke looked forward to the promise of such freedom with an optimism that seems naive from our jaded 20th century perspective. As Frankel explains it: "today we have more freedom but are unable to enjoy it properly; money makes it possible to buy ourselves not only out of bonds with others but even out of bonds with our possessions. We develop a rootless search for ever new things because money is our only nexus with them. Money's abstract power to command anything ultimately seems to command nothing."

And again with the paradoxes: while money as an institution may threaten our freedom and our sanity, in the short run certain forms of money work greatly in our favor. In particular, banknotes and metal money are a protection against the people who want to monitor our every motion. Consider this serious proposal from a lawyer who had a friend whose wallet had just been ripped off: ABOLISH PAPER MONEY AND ELIMINATE MOST CRIME. Paper currency is the lifeblood of crime and corruption in the United States - without paper money it would be virtually impossible for criminals and corrupt officials to profit from illegal activities. If all substantial transfers of money were recorded in bank transactions, nobody could conduct profitable illegal activities without creating highly visible permanent evidence of the illegal activities or of income tax evasion or both. With the chances of profit from illegal activities so slim, it is difficult to visualize large numbers of persons running the risks of imprisonment. Crime would be reduced dramatically to the point where today's police forces could effectively control it. Technology has advanced to the point that today there is a substitute for paper money: a "payment card" system keyed to bank accounts.

Each person wishing to spend money other than coins, which would remain in circulation, would be required to have a bank account. The bank or federal government would issue to each depositor a US payment card similar to plastic credit cards. In addition to the necessary codings, each card would contain the photograph and fingerprint of the depositor. Every business establishment, including taxicabs, would be equipped with a terminal in which the payment card could be inserted (and) make a visual display of the charge so that the customer could see the exact amount being deducted from his bank account. In the event the customer did not have the amount in his account the terminal would so indicate.

Money Is Faith, Money is Power: "Non aes sed fides" not by iron but by faith. This inscription formerly found on Maltese coins sums up a very important truth about money: that the value of every kind of money, including metal money, rests on trust. Money cannot be enforced, and money is accepted only when people exchange it for a certain amount of real stuff at some point in the future. This is perhaps an important point to remember in times of impending economic crises. In the face of short term economic upheaval, conservatives are correct to insist on accepting only gold and silver as "real" money, since they are relatively rare and can't be manufactured out of common materials by the government. Lydia, 6th century BC., value stamped on coinage for the first time [electrum (gold-silver); L / Gr. elektron, akin to elektor, shining, the sun]. But ultimately the value of gold and silver as money rests on faith and trust in the future, just like paper currency does. When the real crunch finally comes, it may be useful to remember that there are more calories in paper than in silver or gold.

And here we come to yet another of the paradoxes of money: while money depends on trust at the personal level, that trust ultimately depends on the power of the issuing authority. Our currency is backed not by the gold in Fort Knox but by the

guns in Fort Knox. The value of money, whether gold or paper, ultimately rests on faith, and the value of the US dollar rests on the faith that the US domination of the world economy is backed by the US Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines.

For several hundred years economists have recognized that our money has value "to the extent of our faith in a viable tomorrow." Thus it seems surprising that no economist has drawn a connection between the dawn of the nuclear era and the chronic inflation that has characterized the post-war economies of the industrial nations - perhaps this can also help explain the willingness of both liberals and conservatives in this country to rack up huge federal deficits. What's so bad about stealing from tomorrow when there's not going to be a tomorrow?

Money Is Information: the only problem is that it's not very much information. Money talks, but it doesn't say much. In the wonderful world of capitalism, everything - and everyone - has a price, and that price is the only information that matters in the marketplace. For the marketplace to work, reality has to be simplified and standardized. As our everyday life becomes more and more characterized by exchanges, by buying and selling, many of the facts and observations about the objects in our lives become irrelevant and are no longer valued - commodities have no history - there are no tenses in the language of money - prices are always now.

Interest rates, stock prices, and commodity index futures all provide information about the economy and provide clues as to how to most efficiently organize society's resources - but as with prices, lots of information is lost in the translation of daily life into economic indicators. Countless facts about millions of people doing millions of different things get reduced to a few bits of data which are interpreted by economists like Chinese mystics prophesying from the pattern of I Ching sticks. All economics is voodoo economics. Through their interpretation of the magic signs, the best allocation of economic resources is determined - but best for who? Priests who prophesy against their masters usually don't have much job security.

This development is an inevitable consequence of the increasing abstraction of money. When money becomes intellectualized, intellectuals control money and the economy - and, as always, the intellectuals are controlled by the governments and corporations that sign their paychecks, and thus the productive forces of a society are organized to maintain the existing power relations of that society. Simmel again: "Money is thus one of the great cultural elements whose function it is to assemble great forces at a single point and so to overcome the passive and active opposition by this concentration of energies. We should think of the machine in this context." Welcome to the machine.

Money Never Sleeps: the speed of electricity approaches that of the speed of light, and today the speed of money is the speed of electricity. Every day billions of "dollars" race the sun around the globe. As one financial market closes, the dollars rush on to the next so that not a moment is wasted. "Knowledge - Zzzzzp! Money - Zzzzzp! - Power! That's the cycle democracy is built on!"
-Tennessee Williams.

What Can I Do? Raoul Vaneigem says that "a truly new reality can only be based on the principle of the gift", and many have argued the need for the abolition of money, but history has shown that money cannot be abolished before people's need for money has been abolished. Until we have created a society of the gift that is no longer built on a system of commodity exchanges, money will be necessary or perhaps even desirable. So what we need are some practical short term strategies that will move us in the direction of the type of society we want to see, and at the same time we need to create new monetary institutions that will reduce some of the more destructive effects of money in the meantime.

Burning money is always good theater, but until we have provided ourselves with a permanent non-money means of sustenance, doing very much of it will be counterproductive. Removing as much of our daily lives from the arena of commodity exchange seems important, since that's how the new reality will be created: by individuals consciously removing themselves from the old, destructive system - SYSTEMIC WITHDRAWAL. So freely giving and receiving as much as possible seems like a step in the right direction [freely ye have received, freely give; Matt. 10:8].

And while money is still with us, we need to place limits on the money we use. Instead of passively accepting ever expanding and accelerating forms of money like they were divinely commanded by some all-powerful god, we need to raise the awareness that money is essentially a social relationship and as such we have the right to collectively determine the nature of that relationship [refuse the ATM, the debit card, eCommerce, credit cards, etc.].

Some in the past have argued for placing time limits on money, such as issuing money that expires and has no value after a certain date. What seems more practical [one alternative] in the short term is to create new forms of money that are spatially limited - regional, decentralized currencies only good in a specified area. This may seem impractical, too, but experiments like this have worked in the past, and one such project is in progress right now in the United States [1987].

Part of the benefit of regional or local currency comes from the fact that a banknote essentially represents an interest-free loan to the central government. In the Isle of Man in the early 1800's, citizens there replaced all the English money on the island with their own local currency, invested the English money, and in a few years had earned enough interest to finance the construction of a new public hall.

In the Berkshires area of Massachusetts, the SHARE (Self Help Assoc. for a Regional Economy) program is currently [1987] making loans that encourage greater regional self-sufficiency in the production of basic necessities, and plans to soon issue a regional currency called "Berkshares", with a value based on the value of cordwood. Berkshares are designed to meet the criteria for an appropriately scaled currency proposed by Robert Swann of the E.F. Schumacher Society. Swann says that the new local currencies should be: 1. consistent with customary practices (ie., taking the form of cash and checks and being compatible with common accounting systems); 2. redeemable in some form of real everyday value; 3. based on local production but tied to a universal measure of value; and 4. controlled by the community, perhaps through a non-profit bank. It's too early to evaluate the success of the Berkshares program, but in its first stages it seems to be a short but firm step in the direction of local autonomy.

Closing Benediction and Words of Inspiration: capitalists understand far better than the rest of us what money does, but with rare exceptions they seem to have little idea about what money is. It's the same with computers; often the best programmers have little idea of how their machines are built, and Beethoven didn't know how to make pianos. But here is where our opportunity lies. Only those who understand their tools can really control them (what happens to Beethoven when his piano is broken?), and only if we understand the tools that are used to control us can we fight back effectively. So, by coming to understand the reality behind the shell game and light show of the current world economic system, perhaps we can learn to build the hardware for a new way of organizing our productive activities that will build community instead of destroying it and will empower us as individuals rather than enslaving us and reducing us to cogs in an incomprehensible and uncontrollable machine. -- [based on Fidonet, Practical Anarchy Online, this originally appeared in The Gentle Anarchist #15, Fall 1987]

Community Currency Magazine [web page](#)
Digital Gold Currency (DGC) Magazine [documents page](#)
BerkShares, Inc. [web page](#)

LETS - Local Exchange Trading Systems
Transaction Net [home page](#)
LETS Wikipedia [web page](#)
The LETSsystem Design Manual [web page](#)

American Open Currency Standard (AOCS)
The Survival Podcast [listen or download](#) [59:30m]
Mar 10th, 2010 Episode-395 An Interview with Rob Gray of the AOCS

Today we welcome Rob Gray of the American Open Currency Standard and the AG Trading Center in Farmers Branch Texas. Tune in to learn about putting real value back into an honest currency standard and about Rob's other projects. By participating in the AOCS, you have immediate access to the thousands of participating merchants across the country, as well as the approved Mints that will craft your private currency. AOCS Merchants are enrolled to accept any AOCS-approved currency.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:56 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Maxine Udall: The Market For Morals

The Market for Morals

by Maxine Udall [article link](#)

02/27/2010

Lately, I've been thinking about what we obtain from markets: obvious things like goods and services, wages and output, credit and interest. But we get much more than these. Here's Aristotle in Ethics, Book V:

"Money is a sort of medium or mean; for it measures everything and consequently measures among other things excess or defect, e.g., the number of shoes which are equivalent to a house or a meal. As a builder then is to a cobbler, so must so many shoes be to a house or a meal; for otherwise there would be no exchange or association. But this will be impossible, unless the shoes and the house or meal are in some sense equalized. Hence arises the necessity of a single universal standard of measurement, as was said before. This standard is in truth the demand for mutual services, which holds society together."

Markets are places of reciprocity, of fair exchange, of a sort of equalizing justice. Without money or markets, there would be "no exchange or association." The demand for services that are mutually beneficial is part of what holds society together. In Aristotle's time, markets drew people out of their homes and into the marketplace to interact with their neighbors and townsmen and women; to observe the behavior of merchants over time; to develop sympathy for the individuals that they traded with; and to become invested in the welfare of their community. **Markets were the warp upon which was woven the social fabric that binds us into community.**

In Adam Smith's time, markets had expanded beyond the Agora and the village square, but the social by-products of market transactions were not much different. **The oft-repeated transactions of market exchange and trade provided opportunities for the development of individual virtues such as temperance and prudence as well as the social glue of mutual sympathy, trust, loyalty, and justice.** Unfortunately, Smith's thoughts (in Theory of Moral Sentiments) on the moral glue that binds us have been largely ignored, while a very few passages from Smith's Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations have become the scaffolding in support of extremely dysfunctional markets and the rhetoric that promotes them.

Here's Smith saying something similar, but more nuanced than Aristotle above:

"Whoever offers to another a bargain of any kind, proposes to do this. Give me that which I want, and you shall have this which you want, is the meaning of every such offer; and it is in this manner that we obtain from one another the far greater part of those good offices which we stand in need of. It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker, that we expect our dinner, but from their regard for their own interest. We address ourselves, not to their humanity but to their self-love, and never talk to them of our own necessities but of their advantages."

Of course, Smith's conceptualization of "self-love" was much broader than the narrow "self-interest" that is often confused with it. Self-love hearkens back to Smith's Impartial Spectator in TMS, the moral arbiter within:

"It is reason, principle, conscience, the inhabitant of the breast, the man within, the great judge and arbiter of our conduct...who calls to us, with a voice capable of astonishing the most presumptuous of our passions, that we are but one of the multitude, in no respect better than any other in it; and that when we prefer ourselves so shamefully and so blindly to others, we become the proper objects of resentment, abhorrence, and execration. It is from him only that we learn the real littleness of ourselves. It is this impartial spectator . . . who shows us the propriety of generosity and the deformity of injustice; the propriety of reining the greatest interests of our own, for the yet greater interests of others . . . in order to obtain the greatest benefit to ourselves. It is not the love of our neighbor, it is not the love of mankind, which upon many occasions prompts us to the practice of those divine virtues. It is a stronger love, a more powerful affection, the love of what is honorable and noble, the grandeur, and dignity, and superiority of our own characters."

Notice that Smith's "self-love" had a long-term perspective where the preservation of market relationships whether as owner, customer, manager, or shareholder went beyond the next quarterly report. **It is a broader form of self-interest, one that rationally recognizes that the greatest benefit to ourselves and our loved ones may accrue from restraining narrowly conceptualized, short-term self interest.**

Markets then are places where more is exchanged than goods and services, labor and product, credit, and interest. **They are places where we also develop the personal virtues of temperance and prudence and the social virtues of benevolence and justice. When they function well, they produce trust, loyalty, and sympathy among those who trade there.**

Please don't get me wrong. If injustices in the form of, say, racism, sexism, xenophobia, or homophobia are entrenched in a society, market forces alone cannot be relied upon to eliminate them. In fact, market forces may reinforce injustice if a dominant majority "votes" always with its dollars to penalize the businesses and individuals and institutions that attempt to remedy discrimination or injustice. (As a thought experiment, imagine yourself as a small business person trying to serve both blacks and whites at the same lunch counter in the US south prior to 1965 even in the absence of Jim Crow laws.) However, even in such a society, well-functioning markets should reinforce trust, loyalty, and sympathy, at least among the dominant, unjust majority.

For a variety of reasons, **the modern marketplace no longer promotes and reinforces moral behavior and moral sentiments as effectively as when firms were smaller, markets were local, most products were simple, and most transactions were transparent.** Instead, complex and opaque financial "innovation" has allowed capital to be siphoned off into speculative and unproductive uses. The same "innovation" is now allowing bets to be made against troubled countries and currencies to the detriment of those countries. At the same time, taxpayers have been asked to finance bailouts for banks too large to fail and apparently also too large to be required or regulated to be competent or trustworthy while at the same time they are allowed to wield unfettered political power.

The danger here is that weak, ineffective political responses to such market and moral failures create new market and moral forces that undermine the social fabric that binds us and supports future economic growth and welfare. We have created in the no-strings attached bank bailout and the failure to regulate against future finance-induced crises a very public example of how vice (or the absence of wisdom and prudence) is rewarded at the expense of the virtuous because vice is too big to fail. We have created a very public example of how hard work, showing up on time every day, doing what you're supposed to do, raising your kids, going to PTA meetings, pursuing the prudent American dream of owning a home can evaporate almost overnight along with health insurance cover. **There is no justice in this. The provision of a safety net and access to affordable healthcare for unemployed and displaced families remains an apparently insurmountable political and economic challenge, while the bailout of unwise and imprudent financial institutions that were the cause of the injustice was accomplished quickly and easily with bonuses for all.**

If market transactions are the warp, then moral sentiments and a well-developed sense of justice are the weft of the social fabric that binds us together and supports economic growth and prosperity. **When the social fabric tears, when firms dominate markets, the economy, and the political system; when the resulting distribution of goods, services, and wealth become very unequal; when individuals begin assuming that no one is trustworthy so they might as well be untrustworthy too; we will lose all the things that markets have traditionally given us: economic growth; cooperation and coordination; and efficiency.** The rule of law can only do so much and the costs of policing and enforcing rules far exceed whatever costs are associated with a fundamentally moral and just society.

I'm not sure any of us, especially economists, fully understand the extent to which market transactions produce and reinforce the moral conditions that allow us as a nation to flourish economically or to decay. **Large businesses may be too big to fail, but they are also too big to be allowed to be immoral, unjust, and unpunished. If they are, I fear it will produce a contagion of mistrust and injustice that will spread to the detriment of us all.**

Maxine Udall [home page](#)

Building A Future Without The New World Order

By Giordano Bruno [article link](#)

Neithercorp Press 3/6/2010
Neithercorp Press [home page](#)

Collapse of the American Empire: Swift, Silent, Certain

By Paul B. Farrell [article link](#) [article link](#)

March 09, 2010 "MarketWatch"

MarketWatch [front page](#)

Information Clearing House [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:57 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Richard W. Posner: SACRIFICE

SACRIFICE

Debts of the Past – Obligations to the Future

by Richard W. Posner [blog link](#)

September 11, 2008

To the victor go the spoils, right?

Why do we have to defeat someone in order to live a decent life? Why is competition required? Much more can be accomplished through cooperation and no one must be defeated to do it. Competition is a highly negative activity. It takes its ultimate form as war. No one needs to lose. All we need to do is grow up, stop acting like a bunch of spoiled children, learn to work together and share.

People have no sense of value. They live vicariously through their mostly useless material possessions and a bunch of “celebrities” who are idolized for doing absolutely nothing of value for the society that worships them.

I have learned to accept the fact that the human race is not deserving of survival in its present form. **We will continue to consume with reckless abandon until Earth is barely suitable for human habitation.** Hopefully a few survivors from the extinction event we have triggered, if indeed there are any, will finally evolve to a level capable of creating a true civilization. That’s something we haven’t managed yet.

Do you have children or grandchildren? Think about what we’re leaving to them. All the money and material possessions in the world won’t quench their thirst when there is no potable water available. Nor will it help them breathe when the air is a toxic soup, or find food to eat when the soils are nothing but barren, poisoned wasteland.

Everyone wants their slice of the pie. You better get yours before it’s too rotten to eat.

The time has come for the women and men of the United States to step up. For far too long generations of Americans have passed the buck to those that followed. The sins of the parents are visited upon the children. If we don’t lay our lives on the line now and break this vicious cycle, there won’t be many more generations that survive.

I recall seeing a program some time ago; might have been National Geographic, History Channel, Discovery, I can’t remember which. In any case, it showed how the simple act of abandoning a nomadic lifestyle had caused the decline and eventual demise of certain groups of hunter-gatherers. Apparently just settling down for too long in one place can be a fatal error. There was a great deal of archaeological evidence from various settlement sites clearly showing how the exploitation of local resources had provided a very comfortable life at first. But after a fairly short period, as the populations grew and the settlements expanded, things began to fall apart. The structures built later and near the apparent collapse of the settlements showed a steady decline in quality and increasing evidence of failing resources. Some skeletal remains showed signs of poor nutrition and extreme hardship. Finally either the sites were abandoned or everyone starved. It wasn’t clear which.

Some would argue that sedentary agriculture was the first step on the slippery slope down which we are all now careening at breakneck speed. It can even be linked to the beginning of the current critical cycle of global climate change we are currently facing.

I'm not really sure when it started but **for a long time now generations of Americans have been adopting increasingly wasteful lifestyles at an ever higher cost to their successors.** I suppose the Industrial Revolution is the point where our ability to use technology finally caused us to abandon our common sense completely. We became so obsessed with what we could do that we neglected to consider what we should do. **We opened the floodgates of rampant capitalism which actually took control as the result of an 1886 Supreme Court case called Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific. A statement by the judge, a mere two sentences, gave corporations the same rights as persons under the fourteenth amendment. It's been all downhill from there.**

From that day forward those corporate persons have been brainwashing Americans and much of the rest of the world, with an ever more sophisticated and obfuscatory program of indoctrination, that it was right and good to consume everything imaginable with reckless abandon. Bills were written and passed into law giving these immortal and immoral entities more and more power with less and less restraint. **With rapacious greed and unbridled lust for power as their driving forces, these corporate behemoths have become instruments of conquest used by a relatively small number of psychopathic Free Market Capitalists / Libertarians. They have infiltrated and taken control of every aspect of our lives from public education to life and death decisions regarding our health care. They and the politicians that serve them have driven us to the very brink of utter disaster.** Yet, as we stare over the precipice, into the yawning abyss of extinction, we can't help but wonder if we have any balance left on that gold card. That new high definition plasma TV would be really sweet. **The money worshippers now own nearly everything, including the souls of the American public.**

So this is our dilemma. We can do as our fathers and mothers did to us, as theirs did to them, and pass this disaster on to our children. **The problem is there will soon be no chance for salvation. If we don't fix this now, our children won't be able to. It will be too late. The proverbial tipping point to an extinction event will soon be passed. Our children, our grandchildren will be faced with the lives of slaves or refugees on a planet on its way to being uninhabitable. They will stand at the edge of oblivion and there will be no way back unless we stop the cycle.**

First it is necessary to acknowledge and face the indisputable fact that the American way of life is the problem and not the solution. **Every adult American; every man and woman, every grandparent, mother and father must break the hold of the corporate death machine.** We can no longer follow the Pied Piper of consumerism. That path leads to annihilation. **Business as usual means offering up your children as a sacrifice to the false god of capitalism.**

Stop spending.

Stop buying things you don't need!

Cut up your credit cards. Don't drive unless it's absolutely necessary. If you were insane enough to buy a gas guzzling SUV sell it. If you can't sell it let it be repossessed. Withdraw your money and close all your bank accounts before the banks fail. Pay cash for everything you can. When you need clothes go to a thrift store. If you have to mail payments for bills send money orders. If you have any substantial savings use what you can to make your home energy independent. Get as far off the grid as possible. Go solar or wind or both. Localize in every way you possibly can.

Do whatever it takes!

If we stop feeding the monster it will starve or at least morph into something we might possibly live with.

Wake up!

The debts of the past have finally come due, with interest. We must meet our obligation to the future. Accept some pain and suffering now or condemn your children and grandchildren to agony and death.

Richard W. Posner
Searching For Signs Of Civilization [blog home](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:45 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monday, March 8, 2010

Total Resistance And Withdrawal

MM Book 1 Chapter 2-7

GOD IS UP-LIFTING, He casts none down to Hell !! – media induced stupor vs. the Nation-State as private enterprise [the public-nation ceased in being long ago]; **our politics and policies are private interest in public office !!** – CORPORATE BUSINESS IS THE DEVIL’S SCRIPTURE; Hell is of our own creation !! – **“in the end” *all* of corporatism, its vested claim, privilege, wealth and instrumentation, etc., will be abolished; COMMON-WEALTH will be instituted as “right of God” for all within the Kingdom of God** [Isa 23:18 "And her merchandise and her hire shall be holiness to the LORD: ** it shall not be treasured nor laid up **; for her merchandise shall be for them that dwell before the LORD, to eat sufficiently, and for durable clothing"] – GOD’S SOCIETY OF THE GIFT vs. COMMODIFICATION OF LIFE, including the COG INC. !! [Proverbs 28:8 He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.]

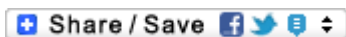
RADICAL [of or from the root or roots; going to the foundation, or source (of all); the extreme edge of truth; **advocation of fundamental social and eco-nomic change, a society of the gift; the establishment of community *by* the elimination of corporatism (its business, monies, nations, etc.) and its systemic claims**] CHRIST-IAN-ITY WILL ***DESTROY*** THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL !! – the systemic punishment of poverty and homelessness; **our life-blood must be the “anointed” [Christ], *NOT* the life-blood of the devil [money]**; ** POVERTY IS THE CRIME, NOT THE PERSONS AFFECTED ** !! – poverty is the result of excess, avarice [claim by others; debt loading; systemic prejudice] !! – criminal-ity is a “product” of our society, people are not born criminals; behavioral problems and/or genetic defect can be identified and “loved” out [healed]; WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH OTHER [*as* God: Christ assumed responsibility for us, and for our sins (our lack of God, our ignorance); evil is the product of our sins, our ignorant negation of our God(-ing), by selfishness] !!

MM Book 1 Chapter 2-8

Social activism is an art-form [an openness to the present; knowledge, footwork]; THE ART OF MENTORING – media is a part of the “everyday” curricula – history is buried in legend, mythology [mythmaking, ie., the nation]; media montages [compressed news] as the whole story – history is made by us: WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAS BEEN DENIED, MYTHOLOGIZED, AND CREATED, WE ARE COMPLICIT !! – active activism is an “expressive” emotive vs. the consequence(s) of inaction [defeat by the systemic]; inactive [mentative] activism ***must*** impel us to “loving” action [expressive, yet, NOT of anger], including **total resistance and withdrawal [complicity] from the systemic**; we must ***open*** our hearts and minds to each other, WE MUST CONSIDER EACH OTHER !! – **we do NOT recognize the evil because we *are* the evil, our very BEING and DOING [enemies of God *in* mind, by our evil works] define us [by their fruits you shall know them]; our systemic *is* us, we are self-defining, and God calls “what we are”, evil [enmity vs. God] !!** – YOU CANNOT WAKE SOMEONE PRETENDING TO BE ASLEEP !! – if we don’t know, we should: OUR PRETENSION [pretext; assertion of claim, right] AND/OR IGNORANCE IS ***NOT*** AN EXCUSE, IT IS INEXCUSABLE [yet, God will pardon us] !! – again, **“who we are” [our being] determines “what we are” [our doing], and vice versa [esp., the "doing" of others], in a “vicious” circle** [given to, or characterized by vice; evil, corrupt, depraved; harmful; ruined by defects, flaws, or errors; full of faults; very intense, forceful, sharp] !! – **there is NO solution to a “vicious circle”, *only* withdrawal, mercy, and truth !!**

MM Book 1 Chapter 1 [web page](#) (widescreen)

MM Book 1 [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:37 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Chris Hedges: Calling All Rebels](#)

Calling All Rebels

By Chris Hedges [article link](#) [article link](#)

March 08, 2010 "Truthdig"

There are no constraints left to halt America's slide into a totalitarian capitalism. Electoral politics are a sham. The media have been debased and defanged by corporate owners. The working class has been impoverished and is now being plunged into profound despair. The legal system has been corrupted to serve corporate interests. Popular institutions, from labor unions to political parties, have been destroyed or emasculated by corporate power. And any form of protest, no matter how tepid, is blocked by an internal security apparatus that is starting to rival that of the East German secret police. **The mounting anger and hatred, coursing through the bloodstream of the body politic, make violence and counter-violence inevitable. Brace yourself. The American empire is over. And the descent is going to be horrifying.**

Those singled out as internal enemies will include people of color, immigrants, gays, intellectuals, feminists, Jews, Muslims, union leaders and those defined as "liberals." They will be condemned as anti-American and blamed for our decline. **The economic collapse, which remains mysterious and enigmatic to most Americans, will be pinned by demagogues and hatemongers on these hapless scapegoats. And the random acts of violence, which are already leaping up around the fringes of American society, will justify harsh measures of internal control that will snuff out the final vestiges of our democracy. The corporate forces that destroyed the country will use the information systems they control to mask their culpability.** The old game of blaming the weak and the marginal, a staple of despotic regimes, will empower the dark undercurrents of sadism and violence within American society and deflect attention from the corporate vampires that have drained the blood of the country.

"We are going to be poorer," **David Cay Johnston** told me. Johnston was the tax reporter of The New York Times for 13 years and has written on how the corporate state rigged the system against us. **He is the author of "Free Lunch: How the Wealthiest Americans Enrich Themselves at Government Expense and Stick You With the Bill,"** a book about hidden subsidies, rigged markets and corporate socialism. "Health care is going to eat up more and more of our income. We are going to have less and less for other things. We are going to have some huge disasters sooner or later caused by our failure to invest. Dams and bridges will break. Buildings will collapse. There are water mains that are 25 to 50 feet wide. There will be huge infrastructure disasters. Our intellectual resources are in decline. We are failing to educate young people and instill in them rigor. We are going to continue to pour money into the military. **I think it is possible, I do not say it is probable, that we will have a revolution, a civil war that will see the end of the United States of America.**"

"If we see the end of this country it will come from the right and our failure to provide people with the basic necessities of life," said Johnston. "Revolutions occur when young men see the present as worse than the unknown future. We are not there. But it will not take a lot to get there. The politicians running for office who are denigrating the government, who are saying there are traitors in Congress, who say we do not need the IRS, this when no government in the history of the world has existed without a tax enforcement agency, are sowing the seeds for the destruction of the country. **A lot of the people on the right hate the United States of America.** They would say they hate the people they are arrayed against. But the whole idea of the United States is that we criticize the government. We remake it to serve our interests. They do not want that kind of society. They reject, as Aristotle said, the idea that democracy is to rule and to be ruled in turns. **They see a world where they are right and that is it. If we do not want to do it their way we should be vanquished. This is not the idea on which the United States was founded.**"

It is hard to see how this can be prevented. The engines of social reform are dead. Liberal apologists, who long ago should have abandoned the Democratic Party, continue to make pathetic appeals to a tone-deaf corporate state and Barack Obama while the working and middle class are ruthlessly stripped of rights, income and jobs. Liberals self-righteously condemn imperial wars and the looting of the U.S. Treasury by Wall Street but not the Democrats who are responsible. And the longer the liberal class dithers and speaks in the bloodless language of policies and programs, the more hated and irrelevant it becomes. No one has discredited American liberalism more than liberals themselves. And I do not hold out any hope for their reform. We have entered an age in which, as William Butler Yeats wrote, "the best lack all conviction and the worst are full of passionate intensity."

"If we end up with violence in the streets on a large scale, not random riots, but insurrection and things break down, there will be a coup d'état from the right," Johnston said. "We have already had an economic coup d'état. It will not take much to go further."

How do we resist? How, if this descent is inevitable, as I believe it is, do we fight back? Why should we resist at all? Why not give in to cynicism and despair? Why not carve out as comfortable a niche as possible within the embrace of the corporate state and spend our lives attempting to satiate our private needs? The power elite, including most of those who graduate from our top universities and our liberal and intellectual classes, have sold out for personal comfort. Why not us?

The French moral philosopher Albert Camus argued that we are separated from each other. Our lives are meaningless. We cannot influence fate. We will all die and our individual being will be obliterated. And yet Camus wrote that "one of the only coherent philosophical positions is revolt. It is a constant confrontation between man and his obscurity. It is not aspiration, for it is devoid of hope. That revolt is the certainty of a crushing fate, without the resignation that ought to accompany it."

"A living man can be enslaved and reduced to the historic condition of an object," Camus warned. "But if he dies in refusing to be enslaved, he reaffirms the existence of another kind of human nature which refuses to be classified as an object."

The rebel, for Camus, stands with the oppressed-the unemployed workers being thrust into impoverishment and misery by the corporate state, the Palestinians in Gaza, the civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan, the disappeared who are held in our global black sites, the poor in our inner cities and depressed rural communities, immigrants and those locked away in our prison system. And to stand with them does not mean to collaborate with parties, such as the Democrats, who can mouth the words of justice while carrying out acts of oppression. **It means open and direct defiance.**

The power structure and its liberal apologists dismiss the rebel as impractical and see the rebel's outsider stance as counterproductive. They condemn the rebel for expressing anger at injustice. **The elites and their apologists call for calm and patience. They use the hypocritical language of spirituality, compromise, generosity and compassion to argue that the only alternative is to accept and work with the systems of power. The rebel, however, is beholden to a moral commitment that makes it impossible to stand with the power elite. The rebel refuses to be bought off with foundation grants, invitations to the White House, television appearances, book contracts, academic appointments or empty rhetoric.** The rebel is not concerned with self-promotion or public opinion. The rebel knows that, as Augustine wrote, hope has two beautiful daughters, anger and courage-anger at the way things are and the courage to see that they do not remain the way they are. The rebel is aware that virtue is not rewarded. **The act of rebellion defines itself.**

"You do not become a 'dissident' just because you decide one day to take up this most unusual career," Vaclav Havel said when he battled the communist regime in Czechoslovakia. **"You are thrown into it by your personal sense of responsibility, combined with a complex set of external circumstances. You are cast out of the existing structures and placed in a position of conflict with them.** It begins as an attempt to do your work well, and ends with being branded an enemy of society. ... The dissident does not operate in the realm of genuine power at all. He is not seeking power. He has no desire for office and does not gather votes. He does not attempt to charm the public. He offers nothing and promises nothing. He can offer, if anything, only his own skin-and he offers it solely because he has no other way of affirming the truth he stands for. **His actions simply articulate his dignity as a citizen, regardless of the cost."**

Those in power have disarmed the liberal class. They do not argue that the current system is just or good, because they cannot, but they have convinced liberals that there is no alternative. But we are not slaves. We have a choice. We can refuse to be either a victim or an executioner. **We have the moral capacity to say no, to refuse to cooperate. Any boycott or demonstration, any occupation or sit-in, any strike, any act of obstruction or sabotage, any refusal to pay taxes, any fast, any popular movement and any act of civil disobedience ignites the soul of the rebel and exposes the dead hand of authority.** "There is beauty and there are the humiliated," Camus wrote. "Whatever difficulties the enterprise may present, I should like never to be unfaithful either to the second or the first."

"There is a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart, that you can't take part; you can't even passively take part, and you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels, upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop," Mario Savio said in 1964. **"And you've got to indicate to the people who run it, to the people who own it, that unless you're free, the machine will be prevented from working at all."**

The capacity to exercise moral autonomy, the capacity to refuse to cooperate, offers us the only route left to personal freedom and a life with meaning. Rebellion is its own justification. Those of us who come out of the religious left have no quarrel with Camus. Camus is right about the absurdity of existence, right about finding worth in the act of rebellion rather than some bizarre dream of an afterlife or Sunday School fantasy that God rewards the just and the good. "Oh my soul," the ancient Greek poet Pindar wrote, "do not aspire to immortal life, but exhaust the limits of the possible." We differ with Camus only in that we have faith that rebellion is not ultimately meaningless. **Rebellion allows us to be free and independent human beings, but rebellion also chips away, however imperceptibly, at the edifice of the oppressor and sustains the dim flames of hope and love.** And in moments of profound human despair these flames are never insignificant. They keep alive the capacity to be human. We must become, as Camus said, so absolutely free that "existence is an act of rebellion." **Those who do not rebel in our age of totalitarian capitalism and who convince themselves that there is no alternative to collaboration are complicit in their own enslavement. They commit spiritual and moral suicide.**

© 2010 TruthDig.com

TruthDig [home page](#)

Information Clearing House [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:14 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Monday, March 8, 2010

Bill Quigley: We Need a Revolt

15 Reasons Why We Need a Revolt in This Country

By Bill Quigley [article link](#)

Posted on March 7, 2010 AlterNet

It is time for a revolution. Government does not work for regular people. It appears to work quite well for big corporations, banks, insurance companies, military contractors, lobbyists, and for the rich and powerful. But it does not work for people.

The 1776 Declaration of Independence stated that when a long train of abuses by those in power evidence a design to reduce the rights of people to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, it is the peoples right, in fact their duty to engage in a revolution.

Martin Luther King, Jr., said forty three years ago next month that it was time for a radical revolution of values in the United States. He preached “a true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies.” **It is clearer than ever that now is the time for radical change.**

Look at what our current system has brought us and ask if it is time for a revolution?

Over 2.8 million people lost their homes in 2009 to foreclosure or bank repossessions – nearly 8000 each day – higher numbers than the last two years when millions of others also lost their homes.

At the same time, the government bailed out Bank of America, Citigroup, AIG, Bear Stearns, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the auto industry and enacted the troubled asset (TARP) program with \$1.7 trillion of our money.

Wall Street then awarded itself over \$20 billion in bonuses in 2009 alone, an average bonus on top of pay of \$123,000.

At the same time, over 17 million people are jobless right now. Millions more are working part-time when they want and need to be working full-time.

Yet the current system allows one single U.S. Senator to stop unemployment and Medicare benefits being paid to millions.

There are now 35 registered lobbyists in Washington DC for every single member of the Senate and House of Representatives, at last count 13,739 in 2009. There are eight lobbyists for every member of Congress working on the health care fiasco alone.

At the same time, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that corporations now have a constitutional right to interfere with elections by pouring money into races.

The Department of Justice gave a get out of jail free card to its own lawyers who authorized illegal torture.

At the same time another department of government, the Pentagon, is prosecuting Navy SEALs for punching an Iraqi suspect.

The US is not only involved in senseless wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, the U.S. now maintains 700 military bases world-wide and another 6000 in the US and our territories. Young men and women join the military to protect the U.S. and

to get college tuition and healthcare coverage and killed and maimed in elective wars and being the world's police. Wonder whose assets they are protecting and serving?

In fact, the U.S. spends \$700 billion directly on military per year, half the military spending of the entire world – much more than Europe, China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan, North Korea, and Venezuela - combined.

The government and private companies have dramatically increased surveillance of people through cameras on public streets and private places, airport searches, phone intercepts, access to personal computers, and compilation of records from credit card purchases, computer views of sites, and travel.

The number of people in jails and prisons in the U.S. has risen sevenfold since 1970 to over 2.3 million. The US puts a higher percentage of our people in jail than any other country in the world.

The tea party people are mad at the Republicans, who they accuse of selling them out to big businesses.

Democrats are working their way past depression to anger because their party, despite majorities in the House and Senate, has not made significant advances for immigrants, or women, or unions, or African Americans, or environmentalists, or gays and lesbians, or civil libertarians, or people dedicated to health care, or human rights, or jobs or housing or economic justice. Democrats also think their party is selling out to big business.

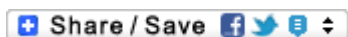
Forty three years ago next month, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. preached in Riverside Church in New York City that “**a time comes when silence is betrayal.**” He went on to condemn the Vietnam War and the system which created it and the other injustices clearly apparent. “We as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a “thing oriented” society to a “person oriented” society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism and militarism are incapable of being conquered.”

It is time.

Bill Quigley is legal director of the Center for Constitutional Rights and a law professor at Loyola University New Orleans.

© 2010 Independent Media Institute. All rights reserved.

AlterNet [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:56 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Sunday, March 7, 2010

[The Ultimate Preparedness Community](#)

The Ultimate Preparedness Community

by George L. [article link](#)

The SurvivalBlog Saturday, June 10, 2006

In Boston T. Party's excellent novel, Molon Labe, the central character, James Wayne Preston, writes an inspiring letter on page 45 to his father outlining the issues he sees requiring separation to build a common community of free people in Wyoming. A better plan doesn't require moving to one state for a political revolt. **For those who are not Christian, please bear with me for a moment. You will quickly identify many of these organizational principles as essential for all group dynamics of individualists freely associating with each other to achieve specific goals. God's plan of true Church organization does not require a physical move. It simply requires a small gathering of His people wherever**

they live, organized as outlined by the early apostles. Both accurate orthodoxy and orthopraxy (the practice of the Christian life) are vital to creating a dynamic culture that will overcome today's popular culture. In 1858, Southern Baptist theologian J. L. Dagg wrote in Manual of Church Order, P. 84-86 that the apostles, "have taught us by example how to organize and govern churches. We have no right to reject their instruction and captiously insist that nothing but positive command shall bind us. Instead of choosing to walk in a way of our own devising, we should take pleasure to walk in the footsteps of those holy men from whom we have received the word of life...respect for the Spirit by which they were led should induce us to prefer their modes of organization and government to such as our inferior wisdom might suggest."

Just as true conservatives know in order to understand the implications of our Constitution for today, they must understand the root arguments made by both the Federalists and Anti-Federalists. These type conservatives will appear radical to the world today. Consider the term radical is from the Latin radix and simply means root. **To understand Christ's organizational format we must return to the roots of the apostles' writings, while often ignoring the customs around us today.**

Remember that no one survives for long without the assistance of others. Within the preparedness community some are primarily interested in political reform, others economic, religious, social or just preserving certain issues we know are important to a free people such as rights of speech, arms, or privacy. None of these issues alone will compete with the culture of tyranny that grows in our midst. We must actually grow an alternative culture that provides a more dynamic and free alternative to what the current environment is forcing upon many of us. Home education was the mustard seed of involvement that resulted in many Americans realizing the ineptitude of the design and intent of government education. Now comes a new growth of social organization I believe will even eclipse the positive experiences of those having grown up in the home education culture.

Everything that happens in this world, including preparedness, begins first in the heart. It then works its way into the subconscious mind and into our conscious thoughts. Only then do we decide if we will take the time, energy, risk and creativity to put it into effect.

The great challenge of the preparedness community is the conflict of world-views. The Western world has historically understood that "civilized" life began first with the integrity and value of the individual. It then worked its way out to the family, tribe, and only then to the state or nation. We are now often at odds with a socialists or communist perspective of sacrificing individual values, even the entire individual, for the better good of the state. **We have come a long way from the original values of a government designed to protect life, liberty and property to those of grand social designs that harness your life, liberty, and property for it's purpose. Even our religious institutions have mostly gone this same route of centralization of power to serve the needs of an "organization" at the expense of basic individual rights.**

How does one stand against such a great tide of opposition? Millions have been killed and persecuted in the last century of its oncoming wave of ideology. Many have argued our defense with opposing theories, but with no success against the envied and hate-filled majorities of democracy's tyrannies. **For almost 1700 years the Christian church has organized itself more along the lines of the world's spirit of collectivism than the spirit of freedom that Christ came to give.** Once Constantine made Christianity legal and forced its adoption, the original principles of organization outlined by the apostles in the first several hundred years of Christian growth began to be subverted and then mostly lost. **The accurate application of orthodoxy and orthopraxy will show how weak and fallen men are built into individuals of spiritual, moral, intellectual, and physical strength completely capable of working together in a spirit of freedom to overcome even the strongest system of collectivism ever created by the fallen nature of man...that of Rome in it's later days.** The success of the Christian home churches in communist China is also an excellent example of the success of God's organizational system even today.

Please do not discount this brief article as an inspirational or motivational piece. It is neither. It is motivational only to the extent that my desire is to move you toward a self-directed academic study of the greatest "how to" organizational design ever to come from the heart and consciousness of the Creator Himself.

While space does not allow me to get into the details of how **the early church gathered in homes, was lead by a plurality of unpaid elders, and provided for the teaching, spiritual and physical well being of its members and often the larger community**, please permit me to point you to a few resources to guide you on your self-study:

1. The New Testament Reformation Foundation: [home page](#)
2. A Baptist Greek Professor's blog: [blog home](#)
3. For encouragement of young adults: Turning The Tide [home page](#)
4. The first week of March 2006 issue of Time magazine gave an interesting overview of the "home church" topic.

The combination of communities of free people working with and alongside others who both home educate and have home fellowships is a viable foundation of building a dynamic decentralized culture. This is far superior to the alternative being forced on us by confiscation of our life from both government taxation and emotional manipulation of a paid clergy system. **In summary, first develop a love of freedom, second, a knowledge of freedom, and then, act with inspired courage in being free.**

The SurvivalBlog [home page](#)

SURVIVAL FIREARMS REFRESHER COURSE

by Bob Mayne

September 13th, 2009

1. "Those who hammer their guns into plows will plow for those who do not." -Thomas Jefferson
2. Those who trade liberty for security have neither. -John Adams
3. Free men do not ask permission to bear arms.
4. An armed man is a citizen. An unarmed man is a subject.
5. Only a government that is afraid of its citizens tries to control them.
6. Gun control is not about guns; it's about control.
7. You only have the rights you are willing to fight for.
8. Know guns, know peace, know safety. No guns, no peace, no safety.
9. You don't shoot to kill; you shoot to stay alive.
10. Assault is a behavior, not a device.
11. 64,999,987 firearms owners killed no one yesterday.
12. The United States Constitution (c) 1791. All Rights Reserved.
13. The Second Amendment is in place in case the politicians ignore the others.
14. What part of 'shall not be infringed' do you NOT understand?
15. Guns have only two enemies; rust and politicians.
16. When you remove the people's right to bear arms, you create slaves.
17. The American Revolution would never have happened with gun control.

Today's Survival Show [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [7:41 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Visions of Economic Justice: For Blind Eyes

Thirty Years From Today: Visions of Economic Justice

Dollars & Sense Nov/Dec 2004

In plenty of ways, the aims of the U.S. and global economic justice movements appear to be receding today, not drawing closer. Still, it is important to keep those aims in mind. On this 30th anniversary, Dollars & Sense asked a number of thinkers and activists to describe their vision of a more economically just world 30 years hence, and to outline what they consider the most important steps to take today to move toward that vision.

I would like to see a completely gender equitable world 30 years from now—an equal proportion of men and women working for pay and earning the same amount on average, regardless of which jobs they are in. Similarly, I would like to see the elimination of race and ethnicity-based differences in economics and politics; a more gender-and race-integrated work force in which most jobs are not sex and race typed as they are now; men and women sharing equally in the care of children, elders, and other family members or friends in need; everyone able to choose the partners and family compositions that suit them best, including living alone or living communally; and all groups represented in governments according to their share in the population. **In other words, the complete elimination of all discrimination based on gender, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. Such a change would eliminate a large share of poverty.** Paying women comparably with similarly qualified men, for example, would eliminate an estimated half of all poverty in families with working women in them. Nine of ten long-term low earners (those earning less than \$15,000 per year across 15 years) are women. The low-wage labor market is very largely a female labor market, with women often working in jobs that pay less because women hold them. While many more changes would be necessary to bring about a more democratic economy in which the average person has more control over her or his economic fate, I would like to see us start by achieving equal pay for comparable work in the labor market as well as an equitable distribution of family care at home. —Heidi Hartmann

We build the ark and call assembly. We float like butterflies and sting like bees. We use our little mice teeth to chew the insulation off the mainstream media. We use our little mole claws to burrow under the walls of orthodoxy. We send our multicolored warblers to harmonize into the skies. We gum up the circular machineries of might-makes-right just so and their humvee elephant treads tear up the very superhighways that they travel on. **We stand on principle, reroute the power, and redesign the system.** We share our code. We secede from empire and weave our economic bill of rights into the center of the world-wide web. We give everyone a stake in our collective enterprise, for which they pay with work and taxes, if they can. We defend the commons, dancing, demand democracy, and inch toward global economic care. —Nancy Folbre

Where the United States has declared an end to military intervention, has eliminated its intelligence agencies, has dismantled its overseas military bases, has reduced its armed forces to a small peace-keeping contingent ready to heed the call of the U.N. General Assembly for emergencies, and where the resultant saving of half a trillion dollars is then added to another half trillion dollars that comes from a wealth tax and a truly progressive income tax, the trillion dollars then to be used in the following ways:

- To establish a program of Health Security, with free medical care and prescription drugs for every person, citizen or not, with the government footing the bill.
- To guarantee public employment (on environmental projects, arts projects, etc.) to people unable to get work in the private sector at a fair wage.
- To guarantee free education up through the university level.
- To guarantee decent housing—through rent subsidies or lowinterest home loans—for any family not able to afford market prices for good housing.

How to achieve this? Organize a new national movement around this agenda, which will then engage in a variety of nonviolent tactics: strikes, boycotts, demonstrations, marches, occupations, to insist that this program be enacted. —Howard Zinn

Whether in 30 years there will be a more economically just world depends on several factors, including the ability of progressive social movements to advance beyond resistance and articulate a program for power. **If we succeed, we will have to address the potential environmental catastrophe facing this planet; the need for global wealth redistribution; the provision of education and health care. But we will also have to rethink the role of people in controlling their own destinies.** Democracy must be more than multi-party elections; it must concern the ability of regular people to engage in a process of transformation of their societies. We must develop a vision and organizational form to pull together diverse political forces, rejecting the postmodern notions of struggling only along identity lines, and advance a program for social transformation. We must build a compelling social vision that, while recognizing the deep fissures that divide us, unites our struggles. —Bill Fletcher

In the short run, any changes that improve the bargaining power and economic conditions of workers versus owners and what we might call the coordinator class (managers, lawyers, doctors, etc.)—as well as of poorer developing economies versus dominant first-world economies—will be highly progressive. So too will be a shift in investment spending from war and maintaining the advantages of the rich to addressing the needs of the majority. Eliminating the World Bank, IMF, and WTO and replacing them with new institutions meant to bend the rules and dynamics of international exchange so that most of the benefits of trade accrue to the poor and weak rather than overwhelmingly to the rich and powerful would also be very positive.

But accomplishing all that depends, in some considerable part, on people believing that these changes would lead in time to a new world with different economic and social logics—not just to old institutions later reimposing and reintensifying old hierarchies against our innovations. In the economic sphere, for me, that means replacing private ownership of productive assets, corporate divisions of labor, remuneration for property, power, or even output, authoritarian decision making, and either markets or central planning, and thus class rule, with, instead, workers' and consumers' councils, balanced job complexes, remuneration for duration, intensity, and harshness of work, self-managed decision making, and participatory planning, and thus classlessness—**which is to say, replacing capitalism with participatory economics.**

As an initial focus, I am partial to fighting for a dramatically shorter workday and work week, then augmenting this change with redistribution, training, and the like. Fighting for reforms that can better people's lives in the present expands aspirations, builds organizations, and strengthens the commitment to win further gains. But at the same time I think it's particularly important to develop a shared postcapitalist vision. Economic activists must be able to rebut Margaret Thatcher's claim that "There Is No Alternative" by describing and making a convincing case for that alternative. —Michael Albert

Possibly the most important task for the next 30 years is to ensure that we understand the history of the past fifty. That is true in the strategic and political sphere, where much about the Cold War and our deep politics remains half-hidden. But it is also true in economics. Here deeply flawed and sometimes fraudulent doctrines—such as “natural rate” theories of unemployment and interest, phobias about deficits, and misguided notions about debt corrupt thought and confuse policy. Only in such a climate can an otherwise sensible public get whipped up over invented problems of Social Security 40 years hence, while little is done about nuclear risks and nothing is done about our precarious dependence on oil. Outrage and activism are necessary but not sufficient. Thirty years from now the problems of peace, full employment prosperity, economic justice, nuclear security, and environmental sustainability will be much the same as today. If we understand them a little better, we may do a better job of getting them right from time to time. In particular, if by the centenary of Keynes's General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money in 2036 the world has a decent community of people who've read it, that would be progress indeed. —James K. Galbraith

Heidi Hartmann heads the Institute for Women's Policy Research in Washington, D.C. Howard Zinn is a historian and activist, professor emeritus of political science at Boston University, and the author of many books including A People's History of the United States. Nancy Folbre teaches economics at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and is a staff economist with the Center for Popular Economics. Bill Fletcher is president of TransAfrica Forum and former education director of the AFL-CIO. James K. Galbraith teaches economics at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, Austin. Michael Albert is a founder and staff member of Z Magazine and ZNet; he is the author of many books including Parecon: Life After Capitalism.

DOLLARS & SENSE [home page](#)

Thirty Years from Today: A Vision of Economic Justice [web page](#)

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2004 [download issue](#) (pdf)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:39 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Issue of Money: For Deaf Ears

The Issue of Money

Fidonet, Alternative News 06-04-94

The origins of modern banking can be traced back to the days when goldsmiths began giving out receipts for the gold that they safeguarded - they soon realized that the receipts were more useful for business transactions than heavy amounts of gold - some enterprising goldsmith figured out that large amounts of gold weren't even necessary to insure the utility of receipts; the goldsmith began loaning gold and receipts at interest, hence the birth of the fractional reserve system and the invention of "debt money."

They say that knowledge is power - "I used to think so, but now I know that they mean money" said Lord Byron centuries ago - **according to Dr. Jacques S. Jaikaran in his book, "Debt Virus - A Compelling Solution to the World's Debt Problems" - "the money creators, through ignorance or design, have withheld the true facts about money from the public and their actions serve to dispossess humankind of wealth, property and freedom."**

Looking at the history of modern banking and the pattern that has developed over the centuries, **it's difficult to imagine that bankers were blithely innocent of the effect of their endeavors to make money** - today, money is created by private banks with the stroke of a computer key and loaned out at interest - because the interest on the money is not benignly created simultaneously, it is mathematically impossible to pay back all the money with interest - invariably some debts cannot be repaid; foreclosures occur - those with the most money profit at the expense of those with the least money - **wealth is transferred from the poor to the rich - it is becoming increasingly obvious that this is happening at an alarming rate on a global scale.**

In the past, Egypt fell, when a mere 4% of the population controlled all the wealth - Babylonia fell when 3% of the population controlled all the wealth - in Persia, when 2% of the people controlled all the wealth the empire collapsed - the Roman Empire fell when only 2000 people held all the wealth.

Recessions and depressions are not "natural" occurrences like rain and snow - **money is completely artificial and subject to manipulation and controls** - a shortage of money will cause a recession or depression - although most people suffer from the lack of money, and even smaller banks will fail during hard times, the largest institutions and the wealthiest people often benefit and increase their holdings at bargain prices - **"the most pernicious of all viruses is the one that confiscates the wealth of the productive elements of society and transfers it to the hands of a nonproductive few"** writes Dr. Jaikaran.

Only coin is issued by the Treasury - most of the money in circulation today is checkbook money, or demand deposits, created by the banks rather effortlessly - it costs the price of a house, to borrow enough money to buy a house - it costs thirty years of sweat and effort to pay for a house, whereas a banker could effortlessly create the money out of thin air, and then sit back to be rewarded with hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest.

There is something profoundly wrong with our current monetary system - money is supposed to "activate the production of goods and services; to facilitate and simplify the exchange of goods and services; to provide a relatively stable unit of measurement for the value of goods and services; and to provide a means of storing values or savings - **the present system elevates the banking industry to a financial aristocracy, allowing unconstitutional control over the money creation process** - money has to be created by man - it is like a public utility - so, if it is a public utility; who should have the right to create it? - should it be the right of a handful of private citizens for their own benefit? - or should it be the right of all citizens?

Under our current system, money has become "a new form of slavery", and distinguished from the old simply by the fact that it is impersonal, that there is no human relation between master and slave -- **it is the right of all citizens to create money** - Congress should exercise that right and spend money directly into the economy instead of borrowing it and burdening the current and future generations with an unpayable debt - certainly the cities, the counties need money for people and human needs; we shouldn't have foreclosures and should be able to afford housing, education, health-care and a

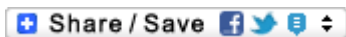
good transportation system - ideally - **unfortunately, Congress doing something which would benefit the many at the expense of the "ruling class," which finances their campaigns is highly unlikely.**

In an article in the Utne Reader called "Bringing the Money Back Home - **local currency and barter foster stronger communities,**" the author, David Morris, in one paragraph mentioned how the mayor of Worgl, Austria, during the Depression of the 1930's "decided to print notes, called "tickets for services rendered," which he used to pay people working on a bridge and drainage scheme - the town council decreed that this scrip could be used to pay all local taxes - each note changed hands 20 times in the first month - the scheme was so successful that other towns took up the idea, and whole areas were transformed out of poverty within three months and into prosperity within a year - when 200 mayors announced that they were going to do the same thing, the Austrian central bank decided things were getting out of hand - it appealed to the courts, which promptly declared the local currencies unconstitutional.

In the latest issue of The Boycott Quarterly (June 1994), an economic democracy feature article appeared entitled "**Creating Economic Democracy with Local Currency - Heck, Make Your Own Money!**" - alternative currencies are cropping up along with books on how to start your own - "**The Need for Local Currencies**" by Robert Swann and "**Time Dollars**" by Jonathan Rowe and Edgar Cahn look at local needs and successful alternative currency solutions.

Most of the world is saddled with debt - **for nearly fifty years (1994) the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have financed projects which have devastated the environment and the people of the Third World - money flows from the poor countries to the rich industrialized nations, leaving starvation and misery in its wake** - the Structural Adjustment Programs forced upon nations by the World Bank and the IMF have meant shifting food production from domestic needs to export crops, devaluing the local currency to encourage exports, cutting social spending, reducing wages, privatizing national industries, and removing tariff protections for local industries - hunger, unemployment, hardship and inequality are the direct results - a growing international coalition has launched a "50 Years is Enough!" campaign to protest a system which is robbing, starving and impoverishing millions - in "Debt Virus," Dr. Jaikaran notes the symptoms of a diseased system, but examines the anatomy and physiology of money to find the root cause and a cure which could benefit the vast majority. -- [based on Fidonet, Alternative News 06-04-94]

Utne Reader [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:28 PM](#) [2 comments](#)

Saturday, March 6, 2010

[John W. Whitehead: The State Of The Nation](#)

The State of the Nation: I am afraid

By John W. Whitehead [article link](#)

The Rutherford Institute 1/18/2010

"As I look at America today, I am not afraid to say that I am afraid."--Bertram Gross, Friendly Fascism: The New Face of Power in America

Ominous developments in America have been a long time coming, in part precipitated by "we the people" - a citizenry that has been asleep at the wheel for too long. And while there have been wake-up calls, we have failed to heed the warnings.

Just consider the state of our nation:

We're encased in what some are calling an electronic concentration camp. The government continues to amass data files on more and more Americans. Everywhere we go, we are watched: at the banks, at the grocery store, at the mall, crossing the street. This loss of privacy is symptomatic of the growing surveillance being carried out on average Americans.

Such surveillance gradually poisons the soul of a nation, transforming us from one in which we're presumed innocent until proven guilty to one in which everyone is a suspect and presumed guilty. Thus, the question that must be asked is: can freedom in the United States flourish in an age when the physical movements, individual purchases, conversations and meetings of every citizen are under constant surveillance by private companies and government agencies?

We are metamorphosing into a police state. Governmental tentacles now invade virtually every facet of our lives, with agents of the government listening in on our telephone calls and reading our emails. Technology, which has developed at a rapid pace, offers those in power more invasive, awesome tools than ever before. Fusion centers--data collecting agencies spread throughout the country, aided by the National Security Agency--constantly monitor our communications, everything from our internet activity and web searches to text messages, phone calls and emails. This data is then fed to government agencies, which are now interconnected--the CIA to the FBI, the FBI to local police--a relationship which will make a transition to martial law that much easier. We may very well be one terrorist attack away from seeing armed forces on our streets--and the American people may not put up much resistance. According to a recent study, a greater percentage of Americans are now willing to sacrifice their civil liberties in order to feel safer in the wake of the failed crotch bomber's attack on Christmas Day.

We are plagued by a faltering economy and a monstrous financial deficit that threatens to bankrupt us. Our national debt is more than \$12 trillion (which translates to more than \$110,000 per taxpayer), and is expected to nearly double to \$20 trillion by 2015. The unemployment rate is over 10% and growing, with more than 15 million Americans out of work and many more forced to subsist on low-paying or part-time jobs. The number of U.S. households on the verge of losing their homes soared by nearly 15% in the first half of last year alone. The number of children living in poverty is on the rise (18% in 2007). As history illustrates, authoritarian regimes assume more and more power in troubled financial times.

Our representatives in the White House and Congress bear little resemblance to those they have been elected to represent. Many of our politicians live like kings. Chauffeured around in limousines, flying in private jets and eating gourmet meals, all paid for by the American taxpayer, they are far removed from those they represent. What's more, they continue to spend money we don't have on pork-laden stimulus packages while running up a huge deficit and leaving the American taxpayers to foot the bill. And while our representatives may engage in a show of partisan bickering, the Washington elite--that is, the President and Congress--moves forward with whatever it wants, paying little heed to the will of the people.

We are embroiled in global wars against enemies that seem to attack from nowhere. Our armed forces are pushed to their limit, spread around the globe and under constant fire. The amount of money spent on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq is nearing \$1 trillion and is estimated to total somewhere in the vicinity of \$3 trillion before it's all over. That does not take into account the ravaged countries that we occupy, the thousands of innocent civilians killed (including women and children), or the thousands of American soldiers who have been killed or irreparably injured or who are committing suicide at an alarming rate. Nor does it take into account the families of the 1.8 million Americans who have served or are currently serving tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

America's place in the world is also undergoing a drastic shift, with China slated to emerge as the top economy over the next decade. Given the extent to which we are financially beholden to China, their influence over how our government carries out its affairs, as well as how it deals with its citizens, cannot be discounted. As of July 2009, China owned \$800.5 billion of our debt--that's 45% of our total (foreign) debt--making them the largest foreign holder of U.S. foreign debt. Little wonder, then, that the Obama administration has kowtowed to China, hesitant to overtly challenge them on critical issues such as human rights. The most recent example of this can be seen in the Obama administration's initial reluctance to confront the Chinese government over its reported cyberattacks on Google and other American technology companies.

As national borders dissolve in the face of spreading globalization, the likelihood increases that our Constitution, which is the supreme law of America, will be subverted in favor of international laws. What that means is that our Constitution will come increasingly under attack.

The corporate media, increasingly acting as a mouthpiece for governmental propaganda, no longer serves a primary function as watchdogs, guarding against encroachments of our rights. Instead, much of the mainstream media has

given itself over to mindless, celebrity-driven news, which bodes ill for our country. It doesn't matter whether you're talking about tabloid news, entertainment news or legitimate news shows, there's very little difference between them anymore. Unfortunately, most Americans have bought into the notion that whatever the media happens to report is important and relevant. In the process, Americans have largely lost the ability to ask questions and think analytically. Indeed, most citizens have little, if any, knowledge about their rights or how their government even works. For example, a national poll found that less than one percent of adults could name the five freedoms protected in the First Amendment.

Finally, I have never seen a country more spiritually beaten down than the United States. We have lost our moral compass. A growing number of our young people now see no meaning or purpose in life. And we no longer have a sense of right and wrong or a way to hold the government accountable. **We have forgotten that the essential premise of the American governmental scheme, as set forth in the Declaration of Independence, is that if the government will not be accountable to the people, then it must certainly be accountable to the "Creator."**

But what if the government is not accountable to the people or the Creator?

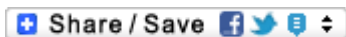
As Thomas Jefferson writes in the Declaration, it is then the right of "the People to alter or abolish it" and form a new government.

©2010 The Rutherford Institute

The Rutherford Institute [home page](#)

Under the regulations of the United States Internal Revenue Service, The Rutherford Institute is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit organization. Donations to support The Rutherford Institute's legal and educational work help to safeguard the constitutional rights and religious freedoms of all Americans. Donations are tax-deductible. In compliance with general industry standards of a nonprofit organization, the Institute is audited annually by an independent accounting firm.

Founded in 1982 by constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead, The Rutherford Institute is a civil liberties organization that provides free legal services to people whose constitutional and human rights have been threatened or violated.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:21 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Imagine A Country: Previous Chapter, Same Story

Imagine A Country

Z Magazine,
November 1992

Imagine a country where one out of four children is born into poverty while the top 1 percent of families have a net worth greater than that of the bottom 90 percent - the top one half of the 1 percent hold over one-fourth of the nation's total private wealth.

Imagine a country where budget deficits go hand in hand with greed surpluses - where the poor and middle class are told to tighten their belts to pay off the debts, high salaries and tax breaks of the rich - it's not Mexico.

Imagine a country whose economy, says a leading business magazine, grew enough from 1977 to 1989 to have lifted everybody's real income by 10 percent if the gains had been distributed evenly - instead, the top 1 percent of families - about 1 million in 1989 - saw their average incomes soar by 80 percent, while the living standards of most of their country's people stagnated or fell - the top 4 percent of wage earners are paid as much as the lower 51 percent.

Imagine a country where the average chief executive officer (CEO) of a large corporation earned as much as 42 factory workers in 1980, 93 factory workers in 1988 and 104 factory workers in 1991 - it's not Japan - there, CEOs earn about as much as 18 factory workers - from 1980 to 1991, CEO compensation leaped 138 percent, after inflation - CEO greed raised enough of an outcry to cause an apparent 1991 cut of 7 percent in average salary and bonuses to \$1.1 million - but when less visible long term compensation such as stock options are counted, the average CEO's total pay jumped by 26 percent to \$2.5 million (nearly 5 times the Japanese average), not counting the tax-deductible perks unavailable to workers.

Imagine a country where average workers' wages have crashed 19 percent, after inflation, since 1973 - in 1973, before two-income families were the majority, median household income was \$30,944 - in 1991, adjusting for inflation, it was \$30,126 - most children can't expect to equal their parents' living standards - many can expect less.

Imagine a country where, according to a leading news magazine, unemployment stands at 7.6 percent... but more people are experiencing distress - a comprehensive tally would include workers who are employed well below their skill level, those who cannot find more than a part-time job, people earning poverty-level wages, workers who have been jobless for more than four weeks at a time and all those who have grown discouraged and quit looking - last year those distressed workers totaled 36 million, or 40 percent of the labor force - the much touted job gains of 1980s were, for the most part, low-wage positions earning \$250 a week or less - more than 25 percent of the work force now toils in this class of job, up from less than 19 percent in 1979 - laid-off workers who return to the market often must take huge pay cuts - it's not Britain.

Imagine a country where people are working more for less - according to a leading business journal, the average work year for all people holding jobs is 1,890 hours (1,938 for manufacturing), the second highest among industrial nations and 15 percent higher than it was in the 1950s - the average worker has less than 11 paid vacation days (most European countries provide 4 to 6 weeks) - the average worker has no right to leave, paid or unpaid, in the case of the illness, birth or adoption of a child - less than 16 percent of workers are unionized.

Imagine a country where, as the rich got richer, they got even stingier - in the 1980s, for all wage groups who itemized deductions on their tax returns, the average charitable contributions increased by over 9 percent; average contributions by those with pretax incomes above \$1 million decreased by nearly 39 percent -- in 1968, the country had a progressive tax with a bottom tax rate of 14 percent and a top rate of 75 percent - in 1992, it has three rates: 15, 28 and 31 - whether you are middle class or a billionaire, you pay almost the same rate - and then the rich get more of it back in the form of tax-free interest on the national debt - debt incurred, in part, to pay for the tax breaks of the rich - the richest 1 percent will owe \$43 billion less in federal taxes in 1993 than they would have paying at the 1977 rates -- how much is \$43 billion? - more than the total budgets for AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children), Food Stamps and Head Start plus most of the budget for employment and jobs training - the way the budget cutters throw women and children overboard, you'd think they were sinking the boat - in fact, AFDC accounted for less than 1 percent of federal outlays in 1991 and 2 percent of spending by states.

Imagine a country with the world's richest economy that has more children die before their first birthday than 23 other nations - the people of 14 countries have longer life expectancies - it is one of only two industrialized countries without national health insurance - studies estimating the number of hungry people in the country range from a low of 20.4 million to a high of 42.8 million - a three-year study in a major city showed that the number of emergency room visits by underweight children increased by 30 percent after the coldest months of the year when poor parents face the cruel dilemma of "heat or eat."

Imagine a country which is first in military spending among 19 industrialized countries, but last in spending on housing, social security and welfare.

Imagine a country where one out of every seven people are poor - many of them work - between 1979 and 1990 the proportion of full-time, year-round workers paid low wages (below \$12,195 in 1990) increased by half, to nearly one in every five full-time workers overall, one out of four women workers, one out of four Black workers, and one out of three Hispanic workers - three of every four low-wage workers were high school graduates - among young full-time workers (18-24), the percent earning low wages jumped from 23 percent in 1979 to over 43 percent in 1990 - among young women workers, the figure was nearly one in two workers -- people are encouraged to see unemployment and poverty as personal

failures though jobs are so scarce that when one company announced 100 jobs at its new television assembly plant some 20,000 people responded - the purchasing power of the federal minimum wage, now \$4.25 an hour, is 23 percent below its average value during the 1970s - federal funding of employment and training programs has been cut by more than half since 1981, after adjusting for inflation.

Imagine a country where corrupt banks are bailed out while farmers and unemployed homeowners are foreclosed - home ownership is increasingly out of reach for all but the richest - mortgages are tax-deductible, not rent - in fiscal year 1990, direct spending on federal low income housing assistance programs totaled \$18.3 billion - more than four times as much was spent through the tax code in the form of homeowner deductions amounting to some \$78.4 billion - in 1991, about 81 percent of the \$37 billion in tax benefits from deductible mortgage interest went to the top 20 percent of households with incomes above \$50,000.

Imagine a country where corporations are rewarded with government subsidies to move abroad to "free trade zones" where they are free to pay workers much less and repress them much more - where they are free of taxes and environmental regulation - one ad financed by the country's agency for international development shows a Salvadoran woman in front of a sewing machine - it tells corporations, "You can hire her for 33 cents an hour."

Imagine a country where nearly two out of three women with children under six work outside the home, but there is no national day care (in 1960, 20 percent of women with children under six were in the labor force) - most working mothers work full time - women earn 74 cents for every dollar men earn; 66 cents if part-time work is included - women don't pay three-fourths what men pay for their college degrees or three-fourths as much to feed their children -- sixty-two countries have more women legislators - in the early 1970s, 99 percent of corporate senior management was male - now, 97 percent of senior management is male - and, in the words of a leading business magazine, "at the same level of management, the typical woman's pay is lower than her male colleague's even when she has the exact same qualifications, works just as many years, relocates just as often, provides the main financial support for her family, takes no time off for personal reasons, and wins the same number of promotions to comparable jobs."

Imagine a country which leads the world in rape and where violence against women is so epidemic it is their number one health risk - much of the violence, from beatings to murder, is so-called "domestic violence," a term as inadequate as the response - the country has no equal rights amendment - it's not Saudi Arabia.

Imagine a country where descendants of its first inhabitants live on reservations strip-mined of resources and opportunity - their life expectancy averages in the 40s not the 70s - infant mortality is seven times higher than the national average and a higher proportion of people live in poverty than any other ethnic group.

Imagine a country where Indian names are used as labels for sports teams, cars and beer - where a popular children's toy catalogue advertises cowboy and Indian gear with lines like "it's heap big fun to wear this Indian Brave costume" and "hunt for game and defend your homestead with these Wild West toy firearms" - where 500 years of plunder and lies are masked in expressions like "Indian giver" - where the military still dubs enemy territory, "Indian country."

Imagine a country where one out of two black children are poor - black infant mortality is twice that of whites - black life expectancy is five years less - blacks are turned down for mortgages at twice the rate of whites with similar incomes - blacks are rejected more often than whites when they apply for benefits under social security disability programs - black unemployment is three times that of whites - one out of two black young adults are unemployed - the proportion of black males ages 25-34 who were either unemployed or earned below the poverty threshold rose from 36.5 percent in 1979 to 45.3 percent in 1989.

Imagine a country that subsidized decades of segregated suburbanization for whites while the inner cities left to blacks became outsider cities, with underclass housing, underclass schools, underclass street repair, underclass trash removal, underclass job opportunities - "separate and unequal" is present, not past.

Imagine a country that imprisons more black men than any other - one out of four black men between 20 and 29 are either in jail, on probation or on parole - how many of them are there because of trumped up charges by racist cops whose mission

apparently is not to stop crime but make sure every young black man, guilty or innocent, has a record? - a recent newspaper article is titled, "GUILTY... of being black: black men say success doesn't save them from being suspected, harassed and detained" - a bank CEO says he has had trouble cashing checks and hesitates to shop in neighboring suburbs where suspicious shopkeepers don't know him - a prominent law professor says he has "encounters with police almost annually, and they never cease to amaze me - they frequently happen when I am out of uniform, that is, not wearing my suit and tie - they are as innocuous as being pulled over because my car looks suspicious, or being stopped and frisked because I fit the description of someone who is wanted by police" - a professional basketball player was forced to the pavement by police with drawn guns who mistook him for a bank robber; never mind that he didn't fit the description - in another state, a university recently helped a local police dragnet by providing a list of all black male students - it's not South Africa.

Imagine a country where public school budgets are determined largely by private property taxes - in one large state spending per pupil ranges from \$3,190 in the poorest schools to \$11,801 in the richest - in the rich schools, kids take well-stocked libraries and computers for granted - in the poor schools they are rationing textbooks and toilet paper - the rich schools look like country clubs, with manicured sports fields, swimming pools and tennis courts - the poor schools look like jails, with concrete, metal detectors and grated windows.

Imagine a country where corporations serve students fast food in their school lunchrooms and fast news laced with advertising in their classrooms - the country ranks 18th in school-age population per teacher.

Imagine a country which has the world's leading homicide rate and you can buy a gun in many states more easily than you can register to vote - one out of two homes have guns - more teenage boys die from gunshots than from all natural causes combined - homicide is the second-largest killer of young people ages 15 to 24, after accidents; AIDS is third.

Imagine a country where children are taught violence through entertainment - where television is becoming increasingly violent and the most violent programs on television are children's cartoons - toy commercials and music videos ranked fourth and fifth - numerous private and government studies have shown that television violence leads to more aggressive behavior by those who watch and contributes to crime and violence in society - many urban parents keep children indoors as much as possible to protect them, indoors where they watch the violence that passes for children's programs on TV - it's not Nazi Germany.

Imagine a country where the new Supreme Court motto for those on death row is "better 10 guilty prisoners are executed quickly than 1 innocent prisoner goes free".

Imagine a country that puts a far higher portion of its people behind bars than any other - it's not China -- the prison population has more than doubled since 1980, a time of heavy cutbacks in education, job programs, housing and wages - half the prisoners are drug offenders, many of them small-time dealers trying to feed their own habits - they can't check in to the clinics treating the elite - they can't exchange the \$25,000 or \$30,000 it costs the state to keep them in prison for a high school or college degree - their neighborhoods don't get to use it for economic revitalization.

Imagine a country where first-time cocaine dealers can get mandatory-minimum sentences of life without parole - with jails overflowing, officials sometimes let violent criminals out to make room for nonviolent prisoners with mandatory minimums - it's not Turkey -- the same country is number 4 in alcohol consumption and number 11 in drunk-driving fatalities per capita - and it is the number 1 exporter of weapons and addictive, cancer-causing tobacco.

Imagine a country that has only 5 percent of the world's population, but uses 25 percent of the world's oil resources - only 3 percent of the public's trips is made by public transportation - it has no national conservation policy - it is the number 1 contributor to global warming - it has felled more trees since 1978 than any other country - it's not Brazil.

Imagine a country spending almost \$300 billion a year on the military even though the enemy long used to justify it no longer exists - it has no national plan for military-civilian conversion though its people need jobs and homes, its schools are in crisis and its public works infrastructure is crumbling.

Imagine a country whose congressional representatives earn more at \$125,000 than 95 percent of their constituents (senators make \$135,000) - among their many perks and benefits is free health care -- the country is 51 percent female and 49 percent male - it is 75 percent non-Hispanic white, 12 percent Black, 9 percent Hispanic, 3 percent Asian and Pacific Islander (the fastest growing group), and 1 percent Indian, Eskimo or Aleut (more if Hispanic Indians are included) - in the nation's 102nd Congress, women hold 2 seats in the 100-member Senate and 6 percent in the House - Asian and Pacific Islanders have two seats in the Senate and 1 percent in the House - there is one Indian member of Congress.

Imagine a country where people stand tall on the backs of others, and encourage those they are standing on to look down in anger, not up - the anger is directed into punishing those even worse off - taking food from the mouths of poor babies, not higher taxes from the bulging wallets of the rich.

Imagine a country where at the national convention renominating the President for reelection a White House communications director-turned TV-commentator-turned presidential candidate declares that another party's candidates "would impose... abortion on demand, a litmus test for the Supreme Court, homosexual rights, discrimination against religious schools, women in combat units... it is not the kind of change we can abide in a nation we still call God's country... there is a religious war going on in this country, it is a cultural war" - delegates wave signs saying "Gay Rights Never" - the 1990s version of segregation forever - the speaker's concluding words turn to recent rioting in a major city - he says, "I met the troopers of the 18th Cavalry, who had come to save the city...and as those boys took back the streets of [that city], block by block, my friends, we must take back our cities and take back our culture and take back our country" - it's not Iran.

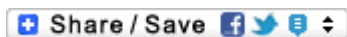
Imagine a country where the President's sons repeatedly cash in on their family value at taxpayer expense - they've enriched themselves and cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars in banking scandals, Medicare fraud and assorted overt and covert scandals.

Imagine a country where numerous officials from the last Administration were convicted of crimes and misdemeanors including a national security advisor, assistant secretary of state and CIA officers - the secretary of defense and two high level CIA officials are still under indictment - then the President and Vice President were never held accountable and the Congress let expire the independent counsel legislation which make such prosecutions possible - it's not Greece.

Imagine a country where the President's press secretary told reporters after a 1984 debate with his then-vice presidential opponent: "you can say anything you want in a debate, and 80 million people hear it - if reporters then document that a candidate spoke untruthfully, so what? - maybe 200 people read it, or 2,000 or 20,000".

Imagine a country where only half the eligible voters cast ballots in the 1988 presidential election - sound familiar? - it's the United States. -- [based on Z Magazine, November 1992]

Z Magazine [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:28 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Friday, March 5, 2010

Thomas H. Naylor: Radical Nonviolence

Obama and the Just War Myth

by Thomas H. Naylor [article link](#)

December 15, 2009

Radical nonviolence can undermine power and authority by withdrawing the approval, moral support, and cooperation of those who have been dealt an injustice. It derives its strength from the energy buildup and very real power of powerlessness.

Not unlike virtually every other political leader throughout history who has ever led his nation into war, President Barack Obama frames the war on terrorism as one in which we have only two choices. Either take the war to the enemy in Afghanistan and Iraq, killing the terrorists in their own backyard, or risk being killed by them here at home.

Kill or be killed. Those are our only options. We are the children of light, the source of all that is good. They are the children of darkness, the source of all evil. Since only we deserve to live, they are obliged to die. We call this “just war.”

The last eight articles which French writer Albert Camus wrote for the Resistance newspaper Combat in Paris in November 1946 all bore a common title “Neither Victims nor Executioners.” In these articles Camus challenged the assumption of war mongers like George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Lyndon B. Johnson, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Harry Truman, Franklin D. Roosevelt. Woodrow Wilson, and Abraham Lincoln, that in international conflicts we have no other choice than to be either a victim or an executioner. Camus argued vigorously that such a choice is no choice at all. We always have another choice: it is to refuse the choice of being either victim or murderer. We can opt for the politics of nonviolence.

The Politics of Nonviolence

Human killing is an act of nihilism. Violence begets more violence, not the other way around. By whose authority other than the law of the jungle do those who kill or sanction killing set themselves up as prosecutor, judge and executioner?

War is the ultimate form of having—owning, possessing, controlling, manipulating, and killing. Just as active participation in the death of a human being is an expression of life’s meaninglessness, so too is the passive approval of state-sponsored executions, wars, and military combat. Wars and executions in the name of the state occur when our sense of community gives way to our pagan lust for revenge—a lust firmly grounded in nihilism. Might doesn’t make right.

In his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech Barack Obama said, “War is justified when certain conditions are met.” The concept of a just war is an oxymoron. **There is no such thing as a just war. There has never been a just war and there never will be.**

Wars are always about money, power, wealth, size, and greed. Wars are fought not to achieve social justice, but to serve the interests of political elites pretending to be patriots, who demonize their alleged enemies so as to manipulate their minions into sacrificing their lives for false ideals. Those who fight in wars are either conscripted to do so or duped into doing so by people of the lie.

Nations which amass military might always find a way to use it. The risk of war increases in direct proportion to the military power of the state. Wars cover up a plethora of political and economic problems by deflecting public attention away from the real issues.

Make love not war—share power and reduce tension.

Nonviolence is a proactive approach to conflict resolution that goes straight to the heart and soul of power relationships and demands strength, courage, and discipline, not just idle pacifism. It can undermine power and authority by withdrawing the approval, moral support, and cooperation of those who have been dealt an injustice. Radical nonviolence derives its strength from the energy buildup and very real power of powerlessness. It must be thoroughly grounded in the will to win. It involves repeated confrontation, bobbing and weaving, engagement, and eventually complex negotiations.

Nonviolent rebellion involves denunciation, disengagement, demystification, and defiance. It provides us with the faith to create meaning out of meaninglessness, the energy to connect with those from whom we are separated, the power to surmount powerlessness, and the courage to confront death.

Rebél
Thomas H. Naylor

Who Knows What Evil Lurks in the Hearts of Men? The Shadow Knows
by William Gay [article link](#)

Most Americans go about their daily lives unaware that they are living in the shadow our government is creating.

That shadow is present in Iraq and Afghanistan and on the tarmac when the fallen troops are returned to this country. That shadow was created in false presentation of weapons of mass destruction and the need to get the Taliban before they come here. That shadow hides the lies of deception, deceit and despised torture.

There is a shadow creeping cunningly through our political system that hides the fact that only the banks benefit from the bailout crisis, which, of course, those in the investment world caused through their greed and total disregard for those who now pay the price: the unemployed and underemployed. There is a shadow spreading through our airwaves that deceptively feeds us the drivel that extends the shadow, leading us to not only believe that which is untrue but to be gloriously consumed by our own consumption.

There is a shadow blotting out the middle class as the top 5 percent enjoy their not-so-hidden wealth and the other 95 percent are only fed the crumbs of delusion supplemented by the intellectual repression of an educational system based on standardization and lack of support for true creativity.

Unfortunately that shadow is growing and even death may become part of that shadow. For now you can buy your coffin or urn from Walmart. I guess it may be true, "only the shadow knows."

William Gay
Montpelier, VT

Copyright © 2009 Second Vermont Republic
The Second Vermont Republic [home page](#)

 Share /  Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [8:35 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Thomas H. Naylor: Rebellion

Rebellion

by Thomas H. Naylor [article link](#)

December 1, 2009

Although it may be possible to isolate oneself from the world of technofascism and find solace through one's creations, one's personal relationships, one's spirituality, and one's experience with pain, suffering, and eventually death, so what? How meaningful is it to retreat to a small farm, a village, an island, or a commune, doing our own thing, separated from the rest of the world which is going to hell in a handbasket? How can we deny the economic, environmental, social, psychological, and spiritual effects of cipherspace? For how much longer can we pretend that we don't notice our government's use of the war on terrorism to restrict civil liberties at home and to expand our influence and control over the rest of the world? **Do we really have any other alternative than to rebel against the money, power, speed, greed and size of the icons of cipherspace—the White House, the Congress, the Pentagon, Wall Street, Silicon Valley, the Internet, Fox News, Wal-Mart, and McDonald's, as well as the churches, schools, and universities which suck up to our government, the military, and big business?**

A word of caution. We summarily reject all forms of killing of human beings, because killing is grounded in nihilism. It makes no sense to attack the nihilism of cipherspace with just another form of nihilism. As Albert Camus said in *The Rebel*, "To kill men leads to nothing but killing more men."

"Rebellion," according to Albert Camus, "is born of the spectacle of irrationality, confronted with an unjust and incomprehensible condition. It protests, it demands, it insists that the outrage be brought to an end, and that what has up to now been built upon shifting sands should henceforth be founded on rock."

To rebel is to confront the human condition head on, to face down separation, meaninglessness, powerlessness, and death. The problem said Camus is that, "The rebel refuses to approve the condition which he finds himself." And, "he is willing to sacrifice himself for the sake of a common good which he considers more important than his destiny." That's a lot.

Although not usually thought of as a rebel, nineteenth century Christian Science founder Mary Baker Eddy was indeed such a person. "Instead of blind and calm submission to the incipient or advanced stages of disease, rise in rebellion against them," said Mrs. Eddy. She was a rebel against the conventional health care system—physicians, surgeons, hospitals, and pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Whether one is a believer, an agnostic, or an atheist, Eddy's mind-body paradigm for healing is not without merit.

Fear is the fountain of sickness, and you master fear and sin through divine Mind; hence it is through divine Mind that you overcome disease.

The physical affirmation of disease should always be met with the mental negation.

By conceding power to discord, a large majority of doctors depress mental energy, which is the only recuperating power.

Mental practice, which holds disease as a reality, fastens disease on the patient, and it may appear in more alarming form.

Suffering is no less a mental condition than is enjoyment.

Imagine the effect on total national health care spending, if every medical student was required to read Mary Baker Eddy's *Science and Health*.

In November of 1932, radical economist and political dissident Scott Nearing and his partner Helen Knothe moved to the Pikes Falls region in the southern Green Mountains of Vermont. Near the town of Jamaica they organized an intentional

community known as the Forest Farm experiment which was committed to simple living, self-sufficiency, sustainable agriculture, cooperation, mutual aid, and an ascetic lifestyle. The Forest Farm complex included eight stone houses and a 4000-tap sugar bush which the Nearings transformed into a self-sustaining maple candy business.

Nearing was fired from teaching positions at the University of Pennsylvania and Toledo University for his political views. He was strongly opposed to American participation in World War I. Indeed, he wrote an entire book, *The Great Madness*, devoted to that subject. Although Nearing called himself a pacifist, a more accurate portrayal of his stance on war would be that of one radically committed to nonviolence. He was hardly a shrinking violet when it came to expressing his opposition to American imperialism. Not only was Nearing an active communist sympathizer for over a half century, but he was a nonsmoking, vegetarian, teetotaler. Above all, Scott Nearing was a rebel.

On 6 August 1945, the day the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Scott Nearing wrote to President Harry S. Truman that “your government is no longer mine.” A few years later in his book **The Conscience of a Radical**, he said, “**My conscience is aroused, outraged, and anguished by the dangerous drift of mankind toward self-destruction, and by the satanic role which the United States is playing in the fateful drama. I have no choice in the matter – I must speak out.**” And speak out he did.

What differentiated Scott and Helen Nearing from contemporary environmentalists, simple living proponents, and back-to-the-land advocates was their commitment to radical politics aimed squarely at the American Empire. **All too many downshifters and newly minted agrarians overlook the fact that the American Empire is currently engaged in the implementation of a series of military horrors including full spectrum dominance, nuclear primacy, the right of pre-emptive strike, the militarization of space, and imperial overstretch.** Simple living may make one feel good but it really doesn’t do a whole lot to curtail the influence of the Empire and its use of high-tech death machines.

Nearing’s biographer John Saltmarsh described him as “a complete secessionist from capitalist cultural hegemony.” Saltmarsh opined that “Nearing moved through a series of secessions—from Christianity, from politics, and finally from American society itself. The secessions in his life were progressive repudiations of American canons of moral conduct as well as indications of Nearing’s perception of the fragmented, segmented, discontinuous nature of American society. Only in the isolated private sphere provided by homesteading could a radical resistance and constructive challenge to capitalist culture be nurtured.”

In 1952, after twenty years in Vermont, the Nearings moved to Harborside, Maine. There they started a new homestead and continued practicing simple living, self-sufficiency, and sustainable agriculture until Scott’s death in 1983 and Helen’s in 1995. In 1954 they self-published *Living the Good Life* which became the Bible for the hundred thousand or so people who moved to Vermont between 1967 and 1973 searching for the good life. As a result of this mass in-migration, Vermont was transformed from the most Republican state in America to the most left-wing state.

Ironically, the two people most responsible for the change in Vermont’s political character during the last two decades of the twentieth century, Scott and Helen Nearing, had not lived there since 1952.

Although he appeared in only three films in the 1950s before his untimely death at the age of 24, James Dean became, and still is, an icon and symbol of rebellion for angry, discontented young men. Even today, “*East of Eden*” and “*Rebel Without a Cause*” are required viewing for any aspiring young rebel. “*Rebel Without a Cause*” skillfully depicts the state of tension in adolescents between the propensity to rebel and the longing to conform.

From the perspective of a rebel, every word uttered by our media, our government, our business leaders, our educators, our scientists, our healers, and our clergy must be challenged. There can be no escape from a world controlled by ciphers without first confronting their every message.

The targets of French farmer José Bové’s rebellion are globalization, genetically altered food, and McDonald’s. Shortly after he was elected Prime Minister of Spain, Jose Luis Rodriquez Zapatero stood down both President George W. Bush and the Vatican by withdrawing Spanish troops from Iraq and refusing to buckle under to the Holy See’s homophobic mandates.

Ostensibly American political scientists and economists have some responsibility for decrypting our political and economic system respectively. Unfortunately, all too many political analysts are merely cheerleaders for our government while most economists are in bed with Wall Street and Corporate America. No one is rebelling against anything.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Archbishop Oscar Romero, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Polish Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, and Soviet leader Michail S. Gorbachev were not only rebels but influential social critics—in some cases too influential for their own good. Dr. King rebelled against the ciphers of racial injustice and violence in the American South in the 1960s. Liberation theologian Archbishop Oscar Romero, who ministered to the poor in El Salvador, paid with his life when he challenged the authority of the right-wing military regime El Salvador in 1980. Bishop Tutu helped bring down apartheid nonviolently in South Africa. Walesa, in collaboration with the Catholic Church in Poland, peacefully and democratically took control of the government in Warsaw. And Gorbachev, baptized as a Russian Orthodox Christian, exposed and confronted the ciphers of Soviet communism as well as the Soviet and American Cold War ciphers.

Gorbachev may very well have been the greatest political leader in the twentieth century. His strategies of tension reduction and power sharing changed not only all of the political ground rules within the Soviet Union but the entire basis for U.S.-Soviet relations. He repeatedly employed tension reduction to reduce conflict at home and abroad. He pursued a nonconfrontational problem-solving approach to political problems based on open discussion, negotiation, and mutual trust. Ronald Reagan soon discovered that it wasn't much fun to pick a fight with someone who didn't fight back.

The other linchpin of Gorbachev's leadership style was power sharing. Soviet enterprise managers, labor unions, local government and party officials, ethnic minorities, Soviet republics, religious groups, Eastern European nations, and Third World allies were among the groups with whom Gorbachev shared power. But power sharing is risky business, as Gorbachev learned. The leader can lose complete control, as did he.

For over six years Gorbachev's radical political and economic reforms were implemented in the Soviet Union with virtually no violence. He repeatedly confronted the all-powerful Soviet nomenklatura — the party leaders, the KGB, and the military. Then in December 1991 the walls of the Soviet Union unexpectedly came crashing down. It split nonviolently into fifteen independent republics.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Bolivian Leader Evo Morales are two notable twenty-first century Latin American rebels whose targets include globalization, Corporate America, and the U.S. government. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is one of the few leaders in the world who possesses the courage to confront the United States and Israel.

[Note: Chavez and Ahmadinejad are far removed from any moral grounds - both are would-be fascist-demigods in their own right; Ahmadinejad is the Persian Bush - this article though, remains excellent overall (-MMr)]

Duke University Professors Stanley Hauerwas and William H. Willimon have proposed **a radical form of disengagement for the Christian church** in their bestselling book Resident Aliens. They offer a compelling new vision of how the “Christian church can regain its vitality, battle its malaise, reclaim its capacity to nourish souls, and stand firmly against the illusions, pretension, and eroding values of today's world.” **They envision the church as a colony of resident aliens, “A holy nation, a people, a family standing for sharply focused values in a devalued world.”** Even though Hauerwas is a radical pacifist, Resident Aliens is, to put it bluntly, a book about **nonviolent Christian rebellion**.

When Revolutionary pamphleteer Thomas Paine wrote about the British Empire in Common Sense in 1776, he might very well have been writing about the American Empire at the dawn of the 21st century. “A long habit of not thinking a thing wrong, gives it a superficial appearance of being right, and raises at first a formidable outcry in defense of custom. But the tumult soon subsides. Time makes more converts than reason.”

Nonviolent rebellion involves a four-step process which includes denunciation, disengagement, demystification, and defiance:

1. Denunciation. The American Empire, technofascism, and cipherspace, all metaphors for the human condition which we allow to manipulate and control our lives; they are the targets of our outrage.
2. Disengagement. We must disengage personally, professionally, and politically from the scourge of technofascism. It's the only way to live.
3. Demystification. Who are the ciphers in our lives? What do they do for us? What do they do to us? How do they affect others? How can we rid ourselves of them?
4. Defiance. We must take back our lives back from big government, big business, big markets, big computer networks, big schools, big religion, and big health care systems. To do so we must decentralize all decision-making authority to the lowest possible level in every major institution; downsize to a smaller nation, state, town, employer, school, college, church, shopping center, hospital, home, and car; and peacefully dissolve the American Empire.

"It is those who know how to rebel, at the appropriate moment, against history who really advance its interest," said Camus.

Rebél
Thomas H. Naylor

Copyright © 2009 Second Vermont Republic
The Second Vermont Republic [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [8:11 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Thomas H. Naylor: Rebél Against the Empire

Rebél Against the Empire

by Thomas H. Naylor [article link](#)
November 1, 2009

"What are the people of Germany doing? Sleeping. Their sleep is filled with nightmares and anxiety, but they are sleeping. We have awaited their awakening for so long, yet they continue to remain stolid, stubborn, and silent as to the crimes committed in their names, as if the entire world and its own destiny had become alien to them. All agree: the German people slumber on amid the twilight of their gods. They do not love liberty, because they hate criticism. That is why they are sleeping today."

Albert Camus
September 17, 1944

Albert Camus's insightful description of life in Nazi Germany, which appeared in the clandestine Resistance newspaper Combat a few weeks after the Liberation of Paris, could just as well have been written about life in the United States today. Not unlike the people of Nazi Germany, the American people are also asleep.

We have slept through the annihilation of Afghanistan, Iraq, and Palestine, a war with Islam, the rendition of terrorist suspects, prisoner abuse and torture, the suppression of civil liberties, citizen surveillance, corporate greed, pandering to the rich and powerful, global warming, full spectrum dominance, imperial overstretch, and a culture of deceit. Massive military spending, multi-trillion dollar deficits and Wall Street bailouts, mounting trade deficits, and a precipitous decline in the value of the dollar have gone virtually unnoticed.

During our long period of slumber the United States government has lost its moral authority. It is owned, operated, and controlled by Wall Street and Corporate America. The United States has become ungovernable, unfixable, and, therefore, unsustainable economically, politically, militarily, and environmentally. It has evolved into the wealthiest, most powerful, most materialistic, most racist, most militaristic, most violent empire of all times.

While claiming to be individualists, we behave as world-class conformists. We think the same, share many of the same religious beliefs, vote the same, watch the same TV programs, visit the same websites, and buy the same low-priced Chinese plastic yuck from Wal-Mart. “All the women are strong, the men are all good looking, and all the children are above average,” just as they are in Garrison Keillor’s mythical Lake Wobegon. And we all pretend to be happy. But is it really true?

Even though we spend \$8 trillion annually on consumer goods and services, \$2 trillion of which is for health care, and billions more on spiritual gurus and religious shaman, are we as happy as we pretend to be? I think not, because what we are up against is the human condition, God’s gift to us in the Garden of Eden from which there is no escape – separation, meaninglessness, powerlessness, and death. Not a pretty sight. Our feel-good religious leaders to whom we turn for spiritual solace try unsuccessfully to sugarcoat it. French existentialist Albert Camus called it absurd.

Unfortunately, the American Empire itself is a metaphor for the human condition. Tens of millions are drawn to the Empire in search of a refuge from the human condition only to discover that the Empire is an integral part of the problem, not the solution.

What are our options in terms of possible responses to the existential angst produced by the human condition? Escape, denial, engagement, and confrontation.

First, we may escape the human condition altogether through suicide. We may choose death and nothingness now over the pain and suffering associated with separation, meaninglessness, powerlessness, and fear of eventual death.

Second, we may deny the human condition through a life based on having—owning, possessing, manipulating, and controlling people, power, money, machines, and material wealth. Through having we try to find security and certainty in an otherwise uncertain world. Our compulsive desire to have leads to affluenza, technomania, e-mania, megalomania, robotism, globalization, and imperialism. Some call it technofascism. It often leads us to the arms of the Empire in search of a safe haven which turns out to be illusory.

Third, we may choose to engage the human condition through being—by our creations, our personal relationships, our spirituality, our sense of community, and our stand towards pain, suffering and death. So-called simple living is a popular form of being. But if the world is going to hell in a handbasket, for how long can a life based only on being allay our angst?

Fourth, we may confront the human condition and peacefully rebel against the money, power, speed, greed, and size of the icons of the Empire—the White House, the Congress, the Pentagon, Wall Street, the Internet, Fox News, Wal-Mart, McDonald’s, as well as the churches, schools, and universities which suck up to them.

Rebel is a philosophy of rebellion. It provides us with the faith to claw meaning out of meaninglessness, the energy to connect with those from whom we are separate, the power to surmount powerlessness, and the strength to face death rather than deny it. Since the word rebel has more than one meaning, we use Rebel to connote resistance to authority and control.

Two rebels are our role models—Jesus Christ and Albert Camus. One was thought to have been the son of God, the Messiah, the other a French agnostic. One offered a message of hope, the other admonished us to “live only with what we know.” **Both had an uncanny grasp of the human condition and an unwavering predisposition towards nonviolent rebellion against it.** Somewhat surprisingly, the Holy Bible turns out to be one of the best handbooks a rebel can read whether one be an atheist, an agnostic, or a believer.

If life is absurd, is there any reason to believe that tomorrow or the day after will be any different from yesterday or the day before, as in the movie Ground Hog Day starring Bill Murray? Even though no cosmic source of meaning has been

revealed to us, we find ourselves drawn to Camus's idea that the purpose of life is to die happy and that the path to a happy death leads straight to rebellion.

Therefore, rebel against the human condition and the Empire, live life to the fullest, and try to die happy by mindfully defining your personal legacy, which some call your soul.

But Rebél is not for everyone, particularly not the faint of heart, for it offers no spiritual elixir or magic potion to relieve our existential pain. It is neither a fire insurance policy against hell, nor a ticket to heaven. It is not a touchy-feely, self-help, feel-good, be-happy philosophy promising pie-in-the-sky to its adherents. Religious fundamentalists, pacifists, and those in search of a spiritual nirvana are not likely to be drawn to Rebél. Although it may not be what we learned in Sunday School, it surely beats nothingness.

Rebél is about the peaceful denunciation, demystification, and defiance of the tyranny of ciphers, which psychiatrist M. Scott Peck called people of the lie. Its radical imperative involves disengagement, decryption, decentralization, downsizing, and dissolution.

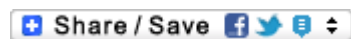
In the meantime,

Rebél
Thomas H. Naylor

Copyright © 2009 Second Vermont Republic

The Second Vermont Republic [home page](#)

The Second Vermont Republic is a nonviolent citizens' network and think tank opposed to the tyranny of Corporate America and the U.S. government, and committed to the peaceful return of Vermont to its status as an independent republic and more broadly the dissolution of the Union.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [8:01 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

We Must Choose A New Understanding

The Healing Work

**** PROVE THE FACT, DEMONSTRATE THE SOLUTION = CHRISTIAN-ITY **** = Acts 4:32-35, of one heart, of one soul, had all things common [COMMUNITY OF GOD] = GREAT POWER OF WITNESS and GREAT GRACE UPON THEM ALL = ADORNING [to put in order; *prepare*] THE DOCTRINE OF GOD !! - PREPARING AND PREPARED FOR THE RETURN OF CHRIST, worthy [becometh] of the Gospel !! -- the "real" world is NOT the "unreal" existence of this present world, the real world is the reality of Christ in-the-here-and-now, and His Kingdom, soon to be established [physically and spiritually] as was originally intended -- corporate money = destruction, the wasting of all it comes into contact with !! - consumers are agents of "consumption" [a wasting away; a disease].

The concept of the Sabbath, the willingness to observe as "community day" [fellowship], a focus [consciousness of God], a "day of relationship(s)", a "day of healing", it is FAMILY DAY where we experience the UNMIXED Word of God [pure agape love; God-ing] and "re-tool" ourselves, where we re-educate and re-define ourselves, according to God's education and definitions, and Christ is our *only* educator and example [pattern and measure] !! - WE MUST HEAR AND DO THE *HOLY* "CHARACTER OF GOD" [the 10C] !! - WE MUST BE *AS* GOD IN THIS WORLD [G2889 kosmos], in it, yet unspotted, NOT complicit in its instrumentality and its crimes; **we must be considered a new creation, a new birth of righteousness [our being and doing], in a systemic of evil:** WE SHALL SIT AS *JUDGES* [condemning the evil and overcoming it, purging it with mercy and truth], WE SHALL BE SAVIORS TO HUMANITY, WE SHALL HEAL THEM WITH CHRIST !! - if we are *as* God now, then we shall *be* God-Family when Christ returns with our Salvation, a salvation to be shared; that is the "healing" work that is before Christ and His Bride !!

Freedom From God Is Enslavement To Satan

Most who feel guilt abandon themselves, this is a tragedy; guilt and grief consume us; God has forgiven us, and we must do the same; we must abandon the guilt, not ourselves !! - let go of the guilt, the darkness within, consider God, love yourself [our perception(s) must change] - **don't give yourself to another's claim of authority out of "fear" of God and guilt of sin; God wants you to claim yourself [God gives you, you !!]** - we connect to and with God only in agape love - we have to give ourselves permission to heal; sorrow, pain is not a connection to a loved one lost, or a loss of oneself [healing is not dishonoring; it is not losing one's connection to the one lost]; love *is* the connection; HEALING is SALVATION, a healing path !! - God's standards, expectations, are NOT unrealistic, man's are !! - living in pain is NOT justified, we have choices; we have the power to be miserable, to carry a heavy burden for the rest of our lives, or not; judgment is liberation, NOT a sentence to confinement [a wounded spirit martyr; a prison of our own minds, of our own making]; the answer to the question posed, do the inner evils of our own mind relinquish our choice, is NO !! - **we must do the best we can with what we have; our ** conduct ** is primary, righteousness is our right conduct, in full consciousness with each other, and with God !!** - relationship, companionship changes who we are; we cheat ourselves and each other with our selfishness; unrighteousness is resisting God, doing what is right in our own eyes, using our own limited standards, seeking freedom from the will and rule of God [defining God using our own definitions (we fear God because we fear our definition, our application), not realizing freedom from God is enslavement to Satan (the very definition we fear)]; living life fully is the promise *of* God, of His Family - we must *choose* a new relationship, a new understanding [the 10C]; God is waiting for us; living life fully is a reciprocal relationship, our common table !! -- [multiple sources, including therapist Dr. Phil McGraw, on guilt]



Posted by mammonmessiah at [7:53 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Thursday, March 4, 2010

[Bob Chapman: Pauperization Of The Multitudes](#)

International Forecaster Weekly

Economic Downturn hits Lenders and Borrowers Alike

by Bob Chapman [article link](#)

Posted: March 3 2010

Full Article Summary: Commercial real estate in trouble, lenders will be hit as hard as borrowers, Greece suffers heavily during downturn, Germany won't buy any more Greek sovereign debt, M3 and M4 down to nothing, China remains as largest holder of US debt. IMF comments on US dollar, debt problems in Florida and California, child labor at factories that supply Apple computers.

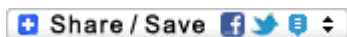
... Residential real estate won't hit bottom until 2013 and who knows how long it will bump along the bottom. At the end of the year we have a whole new generation of sub prime and ALT-A mortgages coming due for reset. In addition there are the pick and pay loans that are in trouble, and 52% of problems lie, if you can believe it, in prime loans. Residential real estate countrywide is off 32% with a number of areas off 50% or more. In the next two years that national figure will show losses of 45% to 50%, and the former 30 hot city markets will be off 50% to 70%. We predicted this in November of 2004. **All the savings of America for three generations of Americans will be lost, and these same Americans will be saddled with horrendous amounts of debt spawned by our Wall Street controlled Treasury and the Federal Reserve. These are the bankers who have robbed you and will continue to rob you until you are destitute and enslaved.**

Over the next four years \$1.5 trillion or more in commercial real estate loans will come due. About 50% are in deep trouble. From the top in 2007 their values are off 35% to 40%, so they only have 30% to 35% to go. Losses could be as high as \$700 billion. The fallout will affect all banks big and small. **The reality of losses will be devastating.**

Lenders, mostly banks, already broke, are going to get hit very hard and many will go under. All debt in real estate is in serious trouble. That is why we believe more than 2,000 banks will go out of business over the next 1-1/2% to 2 years. That is why you should have no CDs and only three months expenses in the bank for operating and 6 months for businesses. That money should be in gold and silver related assets.

The only word to describe what has been and is continuing to happen in real estate is catastrophic. By way of comparison the losses in the Lehman collapse were piddling. If you include the derivatives it was about \$775 billion. In real estate we are talking trillions. The result was that stock markets lost between 10% and 50% of their value after Lehman collapsed. Irrespective of stimulus, government and Fed loans and bogus earnings, once the effect of losses are realized, the Dow will again test 6,500 to 6,600 and in all likelihood break that level and fall to 4,000 to 4,500, with probably some way to go on the downside. The Lehman and Bear Stearns affairs forced the Treasury and the Fed to feed \$12.7 trillion directly into the system with a total commitment of \$23.7 trillion says our US inspector general. Not only did the US provide a rescue but so did members of the G-20, all of which are presently trying to withdraw the stimulus that kept deflationary depression at bay. **The financial elites, particularly of London and NYC, have been temporarily saved, but that game is not over yet. The withdrawal of trillions of dollars from the world economy will collapse it and the Illuminists are well aware of that. The goal has always been the pauperization of the multitudes worldwide in order to implement world government and the new world order. The enslavement of mankind.** That is what this is all about and you had best come to grips with what they intend to do. **These people have bankrupted almost every country in the world in this deliberate process.** That is why sovereign debt is the next area they have zeroed in on as one of the last main cogs of stability to be destroyed along with the devaluation of most currencies. ... (detailed article continues ... Greece In Crisis, Markets, China, IMF, Debt Problems in the States)

The International Forecaster [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:03 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

[Mammon or Messiah research](#)

Thursday, March 4, 2010

[Bob Chapman: The Dollar Devaluation Event](#)

International Forecaster Weekly

Big Players Get Out Of Risk And In To Gold

by Bob Chapman [article link](#)

Posted: February 27 2010

Full Article Summary: Who will be the buyers of US bonds? Questionable Fed policy to keep economy afloat, liquidity drain to keep pressure on gold and silver, George Soros putting his money in gold companies, upheaval in currency markets, TARP was to pay out the people responsible, difficulties for small and mid-sized banks.

We ask, who on earth will now buy our bonds as our multi-trillion dollar Obama-ordained deficits run America into a state of bankruptcy? Certainly not the Chinese, who are no longer buying our "worthless paper." They are now buying Canadian bonds and gold. Certainly not the Russians, because they know exactly where the dollar and America are headed (i.e. where

Russia was not too long ago - in total collapse). Certainly not the US lapdog Japan, at least not since the Obama administration and the largely US government-owned car companies orchestrated a wildly exaggerated attack on Japanese auto quality. And certainly not the Middle East, who are already swimming in treasuries and who want to start their own currency so they can finally break the dollar pegs that are driving them into inflationary hell. Who does that leave then, you might ask?

We'll tell you who that leaves. The Fed, panic-stricken stock investors and the US public, that's who! The Fed will continue to feed money to foreign banks via currency swaps, this time in secret, and will continue to feed leveraged funds into secret Fed-supported off-shore hedge funds to invest in treasuries and agencies. Then you will see the PPT plunge the stock markets periodically to push money out of those markets into US treasuries. The problem there is, that although investors may buy short-term treasuries because they can't think of anything else on the spot, they are going to be looking for other venues, like gold, silver and commodities, both because the US economy and dollar are going to be looking rather sickly, and because rising interest rates due to an increase in perceived risks is going to destroy bond values. They will hold the bonds while the blood-letting is ongoing to take advantage of the increase in bond prices, but then they are going to have to find another location for their assets in short order when that blood-letting stops, and that means gold and silver. **After the stock markets around the world have been bled down to whatever level the PPT is told to bring the markets down to by our shadow government, guess who's next? That's right, the American people and their pensions, 401(k)'s and IRA's.** You will be offered the option to buy an annuity from an insurance company, who will fund it's obligations under that annuity, with, well, you guessed it, US treasury bonds. After the government gets its foot in the door with voluntary annuities, you can be sure that mandatory annuities are next. The only problem with these proposed annuities, beside abysmal rates of return, is that after the US government goes bankrupt, the US treasuries will be worthless and the insurance companies will be unable to deliver on their annuities, leading them into bankruptcy and further government takeover, and leaving you with a big goose egg for retirement income. **That is where we are headed unless you take action to stop them. ...**

... The recent correction in the stock market and in the gold and silver markets was just a preliminary move to tamp down gold and silver until the Fed presumably stops buying treasury and agency paper. The real trouble may start once the threatened liquidity drain by the Fed is commenced some time in March. Very poor performance by the financial sector, disappointing levels of consumer spending, the downturn in the real estate market that will occur as the tax credit nears expiration and the elevation of interest rates as the Fed pulls back on its quantitative easing and interference in the bond market, ever growing numbers of real estate foreclosures (both new ones and the ones the bankster-gangsters have put on the back burner to stop the deterioration of their balance sheets) and the ongoing bank failures that will occur due to massive loan defaults across the debt spectrum, together with problems in Europe, China and Japan, will all be used by the media to lead the way down. This tanking of the stock markets will be used, unsuccessfully, as a substitute for Fed monetization. In the end, the Fed will still have to monetize, especially if the American public puts the kibosh on the pension takeover. No one else wants our bonds anymore. **So the Fed will have to monetize, or the entire bond market and financial system will collapse. Also remember that the Illuminist institutions are using dark pools to dump dollar-denominated paper and to pick up gold and silver bullion, shares and derivatives on the sly. They will leave you holding the bag.** The train is once again leaving the station. Make sure you are on it.

Any pension fund that does not diversify into gold and silver bullion and their related blue chip shares is a betrayer of their beneficiaries' trust and is either grossly or criminally negligent. You won't have to wait for the lawsuits. You will just suddenly disappear off the face of the earth when the people who trusted you find out that they are going to starve to death because of your negligence and malfeasance. A word to the wise is sufficient. ...

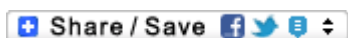
... **The total upheaval in the currency markets that would be wrought by any dollar devaluation would rock the quivering mountain of growing trade imbalances and mal-investments to the core, and unleash a financial, political and social cataclysm that will bring the whole world financial system down as already boiling civil unrest and revolution around the globe bubble and overflow from their roiling cauldrons.** The BRIC nations will be destabilized along with the US, Canada, Japan, the Middle East and most of Western Europe. Eastern Europe has already gone under. The European Union will be DOA after it is bludgeoned into a bloody pulp by the consequences of the dollar devaluation, which will send its many financially borderline nations over the edge, including the UK, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Greece, just for starters. This will lead to a new worldwide meeting of bankers to strike a new accord, perhaps leading to a

basket of currencies to be used in international trade as a world reserve currency that would be backed by perhaps 15% gold. Or perhaps out of fear of the potential impact on the Quadrillion Dollar Derivative Death Star which a dollar devaluation might detonate, and also out of fear for their own lives, the bankers will have their meeting first and devalue all the currencies at the same time in the hope that they could avoid out-of-control financial upheaval and keep risk and interest rates from skyrocketing too much. Either way they will fail. In any case, the dollar would then be officially dead as the world's leading reserve currency. Then we will move on to the next stage in the Illuminist evolution of a one world government, a one world economy and a one world currency. The next step of the elitists might be to establish a system of regional currencies, followed by an attempt to boil things down to one currency. Or they may just go for the gusto, and risk moving to a single world currency in one death-defying, risk-filled shot.

The dollar devaluation event, whether coordinated with the devaluation of other currencies or not, will mark the end of any bear market rallies in stocks, will end the US treasury bond rallies which have been spurred by the Fed's near zero interest rate policy as risk elevates and interest rates rise, and will begin the final descent into financial hell for the derivative markets as well. As the credit default swaps and interest rate swaps that comprise the Quadrillion Dollar Derivative Death Star go out of kilter as interest rates explode, the QDDDS will implode and go supernova and banks will start dropping like flies around the world as virtually all real estate markets crash and burn, with the result that gold and silver will be unleashed and allowed to run up to their true values as investors flee stocks and bonds in search of the only real money the world has ever known - gold and silver. Gold and silver producer shares will also rise in meteoric fashion after the initial onslaught is over as they separate from all the other bloodied shares and prepare for launch. The producer shares are where the spectacular, legendary gains will be made just as occurred during the 1975-1980 rally. **Any and all commodities will rocket to new levels as everyone tries to unload paper trash for real assets.**

You, the US and European public, must run the prices of gold, silver and other commodities up now to take cheap pricing away from the various Illuminist factions around the world who will be dumping all their dollar-denominated paper assets through the dozens of existing dark pools of liquidity behind your backs and outside the purview of market regulators who are as useless as tits on a bull in any case because they were established to cover up and whitewash felonious market manipulations, not to protect the investing public. This will also put pressure on nations like China and Russia who know they must add thousands of tons of gold bullion to their coffers or face total financial annihilation and social upheaval. **You, the serfs, must rise up and beat the Illuminati to the punch now, knowing that they will be dumping all their dollar-denominated assets between now and the time for the big takedown, which will most likely happen in late 2010 or early 2011.** Dark pools Project Turquoise and Baikal were established at breakneck speed to open up the escape hatch for the European Illuminists to dump their euro-denominated assets outside the view of regulators and the investing public, so they would not be outdone by their US counterparts who already had dozens of dark pools to choose from for the unregulated, secret dumping of US dollar-denominated assets. **Neither the euro or the dollar are going to fare very well when the dollar devaluation unleashes the financial forces that will ultimately pulverize both developed and undeveloped nations with almost equal enthusiasm.** The winners will be those who get gold, silver, oil and other commodities on the cheap before their prices explode. ... (article continues)

The International Forecaster [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:49 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Gregory John Campbell: Unequal Protection

The Rock River Times

Guest Commentary ‘**Unequal Protection**’

By Gregory John Campbell [article link](#)

From the Mar. 3-9, 2010 issue

If you are familiar with Thom Hartmann’s book, Unequal Protection, you know the Supreme Court in 1886, enshrined corporations as “persons” according to the 14th Amendment, through a court reporter’s head notes, enabling them to gain the same equal rights as living persons under the Constitution. **Consequently, these legal fictions acquired the living rights only human beings should have, because they do not die, do not vote and can conglomerate wealth, power, influence and control over time indefinitely. Hence, corporatism (fascism).**

Before this change, corporations were subject to local and state charters that could be revoked if they didn’t meet the needs of the communities (states) they were chartered in. **Accordingly, abolishing this fallacious “personalized status” is an essential first step to annulling such fictional “persons” the right to political free speech, because commercial speech is not free speech; it is paid-for commercial activity using free speech.** Furthermore, corporations should not be given the “right” to purchase other corporations, for without that privilege their power and influence would be curtailed, which is as it should be. A yeoman scale of economy is the opposite of a corporatist one. **Our “commons” must come before “their” corporations, or our public reality (polity) will be controlled by private entities.**

Free speech is not intended to make wealth, which is all commercial speech does. It is intended to ensure, enshrine and expand the inalienable moral, spiritual and constitutional principles of our rights (freedoms) guaranteed to us as human beings, via the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights, of which commerce is a derivative from the principles of those rights, and not their source. **For first men must understand what freedom is in principle—with or without wealth—before they can appreciate, value and control a system of principal producing it.** For without that understanding, they will replace their moral, spiritual and constitutional principles (rights) for their principal wealth (property), substituting a material end product for the non-material “mold” enabling it. And because a mold is capable of producing a variety of principal benefits (products) greater than just one, so do our non-material moral, spiritual and constitutional principles structure a variety of rights (benefits) for us greater than that of material property only.

Thus, the balance between morality and money is a fine one. But when “push comes to shove,” **we must choose morality over money(1), or we will lose our morals and gain our money, losing all our non-material values and ideals—principles—for one of material principal only—mammon—a far greater moral loss to us than any material “thing” or idea we could own or control.** Such an exchange may improve our short-term wealth, but it will do nothing to integrate our long-term freedom. It will only add materiality to our lives; it will not increase moral, spiritual and constitutional awareness in our lives. It will only give us things; it will not give us the moral comprehension needed to be human, which requires **a spiritual consciousness** materiality cannot provide. **Ideals, values and rights as principles—liberty, equality and freedom—come from this consciousness; they do not come from material things. No material thing can secure our moral freedom; only moral freedom can.** Thus, material success or strength is no guarantee of moral freedom, or of moral truth—a far greater loss.(2)

As **all our cherished freedoms and rights are enshrined to us as principles of conduct and behavior**, and not of wealth, accorded to all living men equally and inalienably—democratically and constitutionally—and not those of principal wealth only—of privilege—it is only fitting that they must be preserved as such, or they will be reduced to the privileges of those who have wealth and property, but no intention of supporting, endorsing or sharing them with others as moral, spiritual and constitutional equals. **The immoral credo of such materialists is: “gain wealth; forget all but self”—a material condition a moral state of freedom cannot permit or tolerate, if it is to remain moral and free.** Our Founding Fathers clearly understood this, which is why they defined our inalienable rights as “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” given by God, and not as wealth, profit or property given by men; as did De Tocqueville.

Such materialists do what they do for the material advantages (privileges) of principal they acquire only, and not for others, who do not share, have or desire the same kind or degree of principal advantages as themselves, but do their moral, spiritual and constitutional freedom from them! **Hence, the grave danger of a material Republic based on acquired principal advantages (privileges) only, versus an egalitarian representative democracy based on inalienable moral, spiritual and constitutional rights (principles) accorded to all men (not “cultures”) regardless of their material wealth, property or status.** If not, we will pursue material wealth and security, but not moral truth and freedom, losing all.

Those of a commercial state of material “freedom” will never accord others an inalienable state of moral, spiritual and constitutional freedom equal to themselves in principle ever, because it would neutralize the economic principal advantages (control) they’d have over them, because of its moral demand that they treat them as they do themselves—equally, fairly and justly—with or without their intellectual, political or monetary advantages (status), voiding before the law their ability to do so, and declaring them violators of it in doing so. Why justice must guide us, never men.

In terms of moral rights, Thomas Paine wrote: “My idea of supporting liberty of conscience and the rights of citizens, is that of supporting those rights in other people, for if a man supports only his own rights for his own sake, he does no moral duty.”

It is obvious that corporations have no intention of supporting the liberty of conscience and rights of citizens in others as a moral duty, because corporations only exist to support their own rights (profit) for their own sake, and not for any other principle reasons or persons, and therefore cannot perform any moral, spiritual or constitutional duty for them as such equally or fairly, but only for themselves in unfair principal material advantage.

Consequently, such corporations have their place in a moral democracy, but shouldn’t have a prominent one, or that moral democracy will be reduced to **a fascist corporatocracy** in no time, reducing what men should do from the conscience of their hearts and minds, to what they would do with the content of their wallets only. **Such an immoral state is for men made in the image of mammon (slavery), and not for men made in the image of God (freedom). Choose what you want to be.**

- (1) I owe this moral insight to my departed friend Ted Gusich.
- (2) Moral truth keeps freedom moral and true with the Golden Rule; freedom will not.

Gregory John Campbell was formerly involved in the health food industry and is a citizen concerned with our nation’s course and direction.

Copyright © 2010 The Rock River Times
The Rock River Times [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:28 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Paul Craig Roberts: Is The Recovery Real?

Is The Recovery Real? The US Economy is Set for a “Double-Dip” Recession

by Paul Craig Roberts [article link](#)

Global Research, March 3, 2010

Happy news! The government has come up with a 5.9 percent GDP growth rate in the fourth quarter of 2009. The recession is over.

Or is it? Statistician John Williams has informed us that 69 percent of this growth, or 4.1 percentage points, is the result of inventory accumulation. That leaves a 1.8 percent growth rate, and the 1.8 percent is likely due to the underestimate of inflation and other statistical problems.

The Federal Reserve’s own monetary evidence contradicts the recovery assurances from Fed chairman Ben Bernanke. The Federal Reserve continues to pour massive reserves into the banks. The monetary base, which consists of currency in circulation and bank reserves (the basis for new loans), has surged from \$850 billion in 2009 to \$2.2 trillion on February 24.

Despite this potential for massive new money creation, the broadest measure of money growth is still contracting. The banks are too impaired and so are consumers for the banks to create new money by making loans.

The economy, in other words, is going nowhere.

As I have emphasized for years, an economy that moves its high productivity, high value-added jobs offshore is going nowhere but down. Except for the super-rich, there has been no growth in people’s incomes for a decade. To substitute for the missing income growth, consumers took on more debt. The growth in consumer debt kept the economy going. However, most consumers have now reached their maximum debt load, and millions went beyond their limit, resulting in foreclosures and lost homes.

There are no jobs to which people can be called back to work. The jobs have been given to the Chinese and Indians.

The economy is set for a “double-dip,” that is, renewed decline. This, of course, means larger federal, state, and local budget deficits. **The U.S. federal deficit is now so large that it can no longer be financed by the trade surpluses of China, Japan, and OPEC.**

Currently the deficit is being financed by deterioration in the Federal Reserve’s balance sheet. The Fed is creating new reserves for the banks (thus the surge in the monetary base) in exchange for the bank’s toxic financial instruments. The banks are using the reserves to purchase Treasury debt instead of making new loans. This makes money for the banks, but does not grow the economy or create jobs for the millions of unemployed.

According to reports, recent auctions of Treasury debt have not gone well. China, America’s biggest creditor, has reduced its participation and is even selling some of its existing holdings. Whenever all of a new Treasury debt offering is not taken, the Federal Reserve buys the remainder. This results in debt monetization. The Fed pays for the bonds by creating new checking accounts for the Treasury, in other words, by printing money.

On February 24, Fed chairman Ben Bernanke told Congress that the U.S. faced a serious debt crisis and that the Fed was not going to print money in order to pay the government’s bills. In fact, Bernanke would have no choice but to print money.

Bernanke’s warning to Congress is his way of adding Federal Reserve pressure to that of Wall Street and former Treasury Secretary Paulson for Congress to balance the budget by gutting Social Security and Medicare. In case you haven’t noticed, **no one in Washington or New York talks about cutting trillion dollar wars or trillion dollar handouts to rich bankers. They only talk about taking things away from little people. It is not the Bush/Cheney, Obama, neocon wars that are in the cross hairs; it is Social Security and Medicare.**

Other Obama economic officials, such as White House economist Larry Summers, a former Treasury secretary, have called for a middle class tax increase. The problem with this “solution” is that a good part of the middle class is now jobless and homeless.

Money will have to be found somewhere if the Fed is to avoid printing it. During the Clinton administration a Treasury official proposed a 15 percent capital levy on all private pensions to make up for their tax deferral status. This idea didn't fly, **but today a desperate government, which has wasted \$3 trillion invading countries that pose no danger to the U.S. and wasted more trillions of dollars combatting a crisis brought on by the government's failure to regulate the financial sector, is likely to steal people's pensions as well as to gut Social Security and Medicare.**

The reason is that the dollar's role as reserve currency is at stake. If the Federal Reserve has to monetize the federal deficit, the world will turn its back on a rapidly depreciating dollar. **The minute the dollar loses the reserve currency role, the U.S. can no longer pay its bills in its own currency, and its days as a superpower come to a sudden end.** Wars can't be financed, and Washington's pursuit of world hegemony will hit a brick wall. The power-mad denizens of DC will do anything to further the expansion of their world empire.

© Copyright Paul Craig Roberts, Global Research, 2010

Paul Craig Roberts is a frequent contributor to Global Research.
Global Research [Articles](#) by Paul Craig Roberts
Global Research [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [8:40 AM](#) [1 comments](#)

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

[Joseph T. Salerno: Antibank Leagues](#)

Start a Rothbardian Bankrun

by Joseph T. Salerno [article link](#)

March 3, 2010 LewRockwell

When I was an undergraduate at Boston College in the 1970s, one of the weekly underground newspapers that catered to the 250,000 college students in the Boston metropolitan area featured a page-length ad by the graduate economic students of the Boston chapter of URPE (Union of Radical Political Economists). The ad appealed to the college students of Boston to withdraw all the cash from their checking and saving accounts the following Friday as a protest against the Vietnam War. Being an economics major and neophyte Austrian, I realized that such an action would cause severe difficulties for the banks, because they only held (at the time) about 13 cents of every dollar of demand deposits and 3 cents of every dollar of saving deposits in the form of cash. The rest of the deposits were lent out for longer or shorter periods of time despite the fact that the banks had contractually obligated themselves to redeem the entire amount on demand. There was much discussion of such an action on the BC and other Boston campuses during the week leading up to the mass action. Of course, when Friday rolled around the event fizzled, because students were too busy partying (Thursday being the unofficial start of the weekend). But the idea was a sound one.

Murray Rothbard never tired of pointing out that in a free society plain citizens could bring inflationary fractional reserve banks to heel through a deliberate and concerted campaign to get people to withdraw their deposits in cash. “Antibank Leagues,” as he called them, would be formed by those “who know the truth about the real insolvency of the banking system” to “urge bank runs.” The bank runs or their very threat would “be able to stop and reverse monetary expansion.”

Now we have the first stirrings of the formation of such a league in the [Move Your Money](#) campaign. **This modest but growing movement is urging people to move their money from big banks to small community banks and credit unions.** Establishment media such as Time, Newsweek, The Nation, Salon and CBS News have already taken note of the campaign. The organizers are urging people to lobby their friends, organizations, and municipal governments to move their money and to use online social networks to propagate the idea.

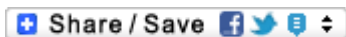
The organizers of the Move Your Money campaign of course are superficially focused on the fact that big banks and financial institutions were at the eye of the recent financial storm. They do not understand that it is the entire system of fractional reserve banking, which has been cartelized, regulated and bailed out by the Federal Reserve System for nearly a century, that is mainly at fault for the financial meltdown. Still, **the idea underlying Move Your Money is a sound one that needs to be expanded to include mass deposit withdrawal from all banks.**

Depositors have more power over banks than customers have over normal businesses in a market economy. The reason is that banks are permitted by law today to hold only about ten percent of demand deposits and zero percent of so-called “saving” deposits in ready cash reserve, even though they are contractually obligated to redeem these deposits in cash whenever the depositor requests. Thus the banking system would not be able to withstand a concerted campaign to withdraw cash and the Fed would have to shut down the banking system (including ATMs) to sort things out. It would take months, if not a year, before the Fed could print up and deliver sufficient quantities of cash to the banks to meet all of their depositors’ demands in full. In the meantime cash withdrawals might be limited to small quantities biweekly or monthly as occurred in Argentina during the last meltdown of the peso in 2000–2001.

So the weapon to thwart inflation and deficit spending and by extension socialized health care and imperialist wars is finally now in the grasp of American citizens and partially unsheathed. Let us wish the Move Your Money campaign success and nudge its economic knowledge and political ideology in the right direction.

Joseph Salerno is academic vice president of the Mises Institute, professor of economics at Pace University, and editor of the [Quarterly Journal of Austrian Economics](#).

This is reprinted from the Mises Institute [home page](#)
Recently by Joseph T. Salerno: Rothbard Vindicated [article link](#)
LewRockwell [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:21 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[SPLC: Rage on the Right](#)

Intelligence Report, Spring 2010, Issue Number: 137

Rage on the Right

The Year in Hate and Extremism

By Mark Potok [article link](#)

The radical right caught fire last year, as broad-based populist anger at political, demographic and economic changes in America ignited an explosion of new extremist groups and activism across the nation.

[Hate groups](#) stayed at record levels — almost 1,000 — despite the total collapse of the second largest neo-Nazi group in America. Furious anti-immigrant vigilante groups soared by nearly 80%, adding some 136 new groups during 2009. And, most remarkably of all, so-called ["Patriot" groups](#) — militias and other organizations that see the federal government as part of a plot to impose “one-world government” on liberty-loving Americans — came roaring back after years out of the limelight.

The anger seething across the American political landscape — over racial changes in the population, soaring public debt and the terrible economy, the bailouts of bankers and other elites, and an array of initiatives by the relatively

liberal Obama Administration that are seen as "socialist" or even "fascist" — goes beyond the radical right. The "tea parties" and similar groups that have sprung up in recent months cannot fairly be considered extremist groups, but they are shot through with rich veins of radical ideas, conspiracy theories and racism.

"We are in the midst of one of the most significant right-wing populist rebellions in United States history," Chip Berlet, a veteran analyst of the American radical right, wrote earlier this year. "We see around us a series of overlapping social and political movements populated by people [who are] angry, resentful, and full of anxiety. They are raging against the machinery of the federal bureaucracy and liberal government programs and policies including health care, reform of immigration and labor laws, abortion, and gay marriage."

Sixty-one percent of Americans believe the country is in decline, according to a recent NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll. Just a quarter think the government can be trusted. And the anti-tax tea party movement is viewed in much more positive terms than either the Democratic or Republican parties, the poll found.

The signs of growing radicalization are everywhere. Armed men have come to Obama speeches bearing signs suggesting that the "tree of liberty" needs to be "watered" with "the blood of tyrants." The Conservative Political Action Conference held this February was co-sponsored by groups like the John Birch Society, which believes President Eisenhower was a Communist agent, and Oath Keepers, a Patriot outfit formed last year that suggests, in thinly veiled language, that the government has secret plans to declare martial law and intern patriotic Americans in concentration camps. Politicians pandering to the antigovernment right in 37 states have introduced "Tenth Amendment Resolutions," based on the constitutional provision keeping all powers not explicitly given to the federal government with the states. And, at the "A Well Regulated Militia" website, a recent discussion of how to build "clandestine safe houses" to stay clear of the federal government included a conversation about how mass murderers like Timothy McVeigh and Olympics bomber Eric Rudolph were supposedly betrayed at such houses.

Doing the Numbers

The number of hate groups in America has been going up for years, rising 54% between 2000 and 2008 and driven largely by an angry backlash against non-white immigration and, starting in the last year of that period, the economic meltdown and the climb to power of an African American president.

According to the latest annual count by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), these groups rose again slightly in 2009 — from 926 in 2008 to 932 last year — despite the demise of a key neo-Nazi group. The American National Socialist Workers Party, which had 35 chapters in 28 states, imploded shortly after the October 2008 arrest of founder Bill White for [making threats against his enemies](#).

At the same time, the number of what the SPLC designates as ["nativist extremist" groups](#) — organizations that go beyond mere advocacy of restrictive immigration policy to actually confront or harass suspected immigrants — jumped from 173 groups in 2008 to 309 last year. Virtually all of these vigilante groups have appeared since the spring of 2005.

But the most dramatic story by far has been with the antigovernment Patriots.

The [militias and the larger Patriot movement](#) first came to Americans' attention in the mid-1990s, when they appeared as an angry reaction to what was seen as a tyrannical government bent on crushing all dissent. Sparked most dramatically by the death of 76 Branch Davidians during a 1993 law enforcement siege in Waco, Texas, those who joined the militias also railed against the Democratic Clinton Administration and initiatives like gun control and environmental regulation. Although the Patriot movement included people formerly associated with racially based hate groups, it was above all animated by a view of the federal government as the primary enemy, along with a fondness for antigovernment conspiracy theories. By early this decade, the groups had largely disappeared from public view.

But last year, as noted in the SPLC's August report, "[The Second Wave: Return of the Militias](#)," a dramatic resurgence in the Patriot movement and its paramilitary wing, the militias, began. Now, the latest SPLC count finds that an astonishing 363 new Patriot groups appeared in 2009, with the totals going from 149 groups (including 42 militias) to 512 (127 of them militias) — a 244% jump.

That is cause for grave concern. Individuals associated with the Patriot movement during its 1990s heyday produced an enormous amount of violence, most dramatically the Oklahoma City bombing that left 168 people dead.

Already there are signs of similar violence emanating from the radical right. Since the installation of Barack Obama, right-wing extremists have murdered six law enforcement officers. [Racist skinheads](#) and others have been arrested in alleged plots to assassinate the nation's first black president. One man from Brockton, Mass. — who told police he had learned on white supremacist websites that a genocide was under way against whites — is charged with murdering two black people and planning to kill as many Jews as possible on the day after Obama's inauguration. Most recently, a rash of individuals with antigovernment, survivalist or racist views have been arrested in a series of bomb cases.

As the movement has exploded, so has the reach of its ideas, aided and abetted by commentators and politicians in the ostensible mainstream. While in the 1990s, the movement got good reviews from a few lawmakers and talk-radio hosts, some of its central ideas today are being plugged by people with far larger audiences like FOX News' Glenn Beck and U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-Minn). Beck, for instance, re-popularized a key Patriot conspiracy theory — the charge that FEMA is secretly running concentration camps — before finally “debunking” it.

Last year also experienced levels of cross-pollination between different sectors of the radical right not seen in years. Nativist activists increasingly adopted the ideas of the Patriots; racist rants against Obama and others coursed through the Patriot movement; and conspiracy theories involving the government appeared in all kinds of right-wing venues. A good example is the upcoming Second Amendment March in Washington, D.C. The website promoting the march is topped by a picture of a colonial militiaman, and key supporters include Larry Pratt, a long-time militia enthusiast with connections to white supremacists, and Richard Mack, a conspiracy-mongering former sheriff associated with the Patriot group Oath Keepers.

What may be most noteworthy about the march, however, is its date — April 19. That is the date of the first shots fired at Lexington in the Revolutionary War. And it is also the anniversary of the fiery end of the government siege in Waco and the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

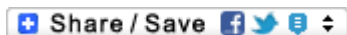
© 2010. Southern Poverty Law Center

SPLC's August report, "The Second Wave: Return of the Militias," [download report](#) (pdf)

SPLC Hatewatch [blog home](#)

Southern Poverty Law Center [home page](#)

SPLC Publication [web page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:57 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Bastante Solipsis Marquez: Mammon's Empire

Mammon's Empire

by Bastante Solipsis Marquez [blog link](#)

MARCH 1, 2010

Jesus was not a capitalist.

Jesus did not advocate capitalism, and in admonishing us to give up our things, Jesus specifically denounced capitalism. In order to work, capitalism requires us to constantly acquire more things. And Jesus told us to stop acquiring more things - Jesus told us to give them up entirely.

When Jesus said that man cannot serve two masters, that man cannot serve both God and mammon, **Jesus was pointing out that we cannot serve God which is love while at the same time serving capitalism.** The two are irreconcilable.

We can be capitalists, or we can be Christians, but we cannot be both. Jesus condemned capitalism and was consequently murdered by the prominent bankers and politicians who saw that his success would lead to their demise.

Capitalism requires a return on an investment. Love requires nothing in return. If we invest ourselves in order to get something in return, we may be good capitalists but we are not ushering in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Christians have a moral responsibility to denounce capitalism and forgive all debts, signing on to the debtors union, abandoning the capitalist teachings and investing in ecological rehabilitation.

Jesus preached against capitalism and Jesus was killed by capitalists who foresaw the destruction of their empire.

The Kingdom of Heaven is not capitalist. The Kingdom of Heaven is love, and love expects nothing in return. **The Kingdom of Heaven loves the way the sun shines on the earth.** Not once has the sun ever said to the earth, 'what have you done for me?' The sun simply shines, as love gives without needing to receive.

We have become a society of intelligent investors, proud of our rational self-interest. which is another way of saying that we have forgotten how to love. **In order to love, in order to usher in the Kingdom of Heaven, we must change our ways, and we must begin by changing our minds.** We must choose between capitalism and the Kingdom of Heaven. **We must choose between God and mammon.**

The Kingdom of Heaven requires sacrifice. We cannot get a good return on our investment and still love. We must give up all returns, and we must invest without getting a return, in order to be loving. We must sacrifice our rational self-interest. In our corrupt world, which has placed rational self-interest on an altar and now worships this false god called capitalism, we must face persecution as we denounce the greed and the selfishness and the egotism that are natural consequences of rational self-interest. **We must abandon rational self-interest, and must embrace irrational, self-sacrificing love if we are to usher in the Kingdom of Heaven.** And if Christians are unified in the praying of the Lord's Prayer as taught to us by Jesus Christ then we must forgive debts, give up entirely the acquisition of things, and learn how to love.

For many of us, indeed for most of us, we must learn how to love for the first time. Native English speaking Americans have been raised on capitalism, which DOES NOT FORGIVE DEBTS. we have been conditioned since birth and before to be unloving. **Consequently, we live in a society filled with highly sophisticated investors and broken families and a dying, corrupt and bloated empire.** And we do not understand why all of our intelligent investing has left us with unhappiness and a pain in our hearts which we cover up with stimulants, anti-depressants, technology, distractions, business, shallowness, and violence. We, the American investing public, must learn how to love from the very cultures and races that we have violently oppressed, who have never forgotten how to love and thus consequently never been that great at capitalism.

The damage that has been done is so great that there would be no forgiveness available to us if Jesus Christ had not already established the universal precedent of unconditional forgiveness through his willing sacrifice of self on the cross. In forgiving the Jews, the master race, the chosen people of God, the bankers and the investors who have heartlessly enslaved an entire planet to a financial system that refuses to forgive debts, Jesus established a precedent that all citizens of the world are now able follow as we see through the illusion of capitalism to the truth of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The salvation of the world does not lay with capitalism. The salvation of the world lies in the abandonment of capitalism. Jesus Christ preached this 2000 years ago and capitalists murdered him. He knew he was before his time, he knew he would not be understood until now. He was merely establishing a precedent that would, over the next millennia, become globally appreciated and revered. Not merely through ultimate sacrifice but through ultimate unconditional forgiveness and ultimate unconditional love.

Christians cannot be capitalists, and capitalists cannot be Christians. **If we are to follow the teachings of Jesus we must forgive all debts, and this leads inevitably to the downfall of capitalism, which opens the way for the abandonment of rational self-interest in favor of unconditional love.** As a capitalist society, we have no concept of what it is like to live with open and loving hearts - we have been conditioned to be rationally self-interested. As humans made in God's image, of course we know what it's like to love, and we are sick at heart because we have built a society that thwarts our deepest need. **As long as the economic premise of rational self-interest remains unchallenged, we resign ourselves to a life of suffering in mammon's empire.**

We must overcome our selfish conditioning, and we must forgive ourselves, and we must allow those cultures and peoples who are not inherently conditioned capitalists to show us how to love. We must empower those we have enslaved to step forward and lead the way. **This is merely the beginning of a lifetime of atonement, this renouncing of capitalism.** To be fully Christian, we must empower the last to become first and the first to become last...

I pray that Christ forgives me, I pray that Christ returns and leads us into the truth which is unconditional love under God within the Kingdom of Heaven

BASTANTE SOLIPSIS MARQUEZ
The Asylum Project [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:31 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Anarchism and Truth 8

A Treatise of the Spiritual Aspects of Anarchism
by Peter Ostrowski
excerpts con't:

Consider also all the many exploited people who think nothing of calling others, whom they see as being in some sense 'above' them, Sir, Doctor or Mister, whilst they themselves accept being addressed by these people by their surnames or, more patronisingly still, their christian names. Those who demand deference must be prepared and willing to be themselves deferential to those who, under the system which they choose to embrace, are their masters. The implication is that there is yet another ladder to climb, and those at the bottom, if they take any opportunities to climb up, will treat their 'inferiors' - the very group of people of which they themselves were once members - in the same supercilious manner. Again, people who choose to play on this ladder forfeit their right of complaint against redundancy and any personality clashes in their place of exploitative labour which upset them, for the rules they choose to play by are of their own making. **Ultimately all the players are on their knees throughout their lives, and their desire to demand and give deference is born of a gaping spiritual vacuum in their hearts which denies their own basic rights, indeed, suppresses knowledge of what those rights are, and veils and clouds all perception of the potential of what it means to be human.** People seem determined to achieve absolutely nothing. It is a triumph of the human spirit, a magnificent achievement, that we have progressed even as far as we have, despite these seemingly insurmountable obstacles and this repression of the soul.

The second most profound act of this government's current residence in office has been the declaration that 'there is no such thing as society, only individuals and their families'. The most profound political act of this period has been for the electorate to then re-elect the party at the following general election (albeit after a cosmetic change of leadership - which I believe to have been precipitated by the immediate realisation by the government that this outrageous statement was politically grossly inexpedient, and urgently needed to be disowned and expunged from the people's collective memory). And now these same overlords have the hypocrisy to tell us that it is unacceptable for there to exist a social underclass of people who do not share the same values and aspirations as everybody else.

If the people who appoint themselves as our rulers claim that society does not exist, then what do they believe it is that they have dominion over? Nationalised industries - both manufacturing and service - and administrative bodies are steadily and systematically being privatised and the people are told that it is not the job of governments to organise such work. We are to believe that transport is not the government's concern - although the railways and roads have been and are still being built solely with public money. Nor do they wish to administer the distribution of gas, electricity or water. Such a philosophy, such a complete abrogation of their administrative responsibilities, is quite consistent with the belief that there is no such thing as society. So what is it then that has made the government contrive, organise, publicise and sanction the official national dream that is The Lottery? Why do they wash their hands of all the vitally important work which a government is elected to perform, while setting up and overseeing something which they claim has no importance other than being 'a bit of fun'.

The purpose of the lottery is to create, through an insidious, Machiavellian inculcation, a culture in which capitalism is customary and unquestionable, appearing to us to be as natural as the sky and trees. For the players are taught to be concerned only with a quest for their own luxury, just as it is in the capitalist world of exploitative labour and interpersonal economic competition.

This culture the lottery is aimed at creating is also one in which charity is not questioned. We are each expected to fight each other in serving our own, individual self-interests, and any pennies we have left over may then be thrown to charities. **If we were to believe the truth, that important things such as feeding, housing and educating the citizens of the world should be funded and supported as a matter of principle, and not through charities and lotteries, then this would be a monumental step towards destroying capitalism. And Mammon is aware of this.**

It is in capitalism's survival interest that people believe that there is no such thing as society, and creating a handful of millionaires will help to inculcate such a belief in us. If we aspire to win the lottery above all else, then there will be no room within our hearts for anarchist, revolutionary aspirations.

Mammon is prepared to make some of us millionaires in order for us all to believe the lie of Conservatism. **In order to survive, Conservatism must take away all hope and aspiration from the people, except the hope of economic victory and victories of influence, power and command over our fellow citizens**, and - apparently - the aspiration to win enough money to be able to avoid the need to do exploitative labour for the rest of one's life. The instigation of the lottery has acted to erode our sense of citizenship, for it has created a culture which actively elicits an expression of desperation, disenchantment and disenfranchisement from society from the vast majority of the populace.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:25 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Anarchism and Truth 9](#)

A Treatise of the Spiritual Aspects of Anarchism
by Peter Ostrowski
excerpts con't:

When it is possible to compel people to do such labour, then it is easy to demand that they believe that those who do not do so shirk their social responsibilities and are a drain and burden on our common wealth, our public funds. So many show such blind diligence to their toils and deferential loyalty to their masters, who in turn are subjugated by the master of

Mammon. Yet to them winning the national lottery is something to aspire to, a dream to hold and cherish and call a reason for living, so that they may cease labour and join the shirkers (those very people whom they had previously accused of not contributing through any work or labour toward a common good), for their million pounds would be paid directly from our shared national wealth, being in fact a far greater drain on that wealth than a man's unemployment benefit, even if it were paid to him for a lifetime.

Everywhere we turn we hear people saying what they would do if they won the lottery jackpot, how they would ostentatiously resign from their place of labour in an outburst of anger and relief. Yet, while they are still compelled to be exploited, they accept their lot without complaint or any concept of anarchism, denouncing 'scroungers and idlers' and speaking of how the wheels of society must be kept in motion through exploitative labour.

Capitalism demands only one form of contribution to society from its citizens - obedience, compliance and deference. Never does it expect the individual to actually want to do his or her tasks for any reason other than financial gain. This is why workers are subjected to pay scales and supervision, threats of redundancy and financial catastrophes if the earning of money ceases for but a week. If people are constantly being taught, forcefully, that the exploitative labour they are doing serves no purpose other than to make money, then it is hypocritical to expect them to have any intrinsic interest at all in that activity. The government's every public pronouncement is carefully designed to further instill in us such ways of thinking - unemployment benefit assessment explicitly demands that labour serves no other purpose than to make money for the labourer - and even the media, controlled by capitalism, also try to force us to believe these things. **We live under the yoke of an insidious despotism. Thus the individual struggles against appalling odds to search for any truth at all.**

As well as using the media and the law to control people's thoughts, to mould their ethics and aspirations, the government takes much away from us through censorship. Any society which uses censorship to control what its citizens hear, see or read, claiming that depravity and corruption are the products of social forces, in so doing admits that war (the greatest mass depravity and corruption) and crime are caused by society. Yet the only measures taken to combat these things are aimed solely at civilian criminality, and are merely punitive - deterrents against individual offenders. Punishment is always nothing more than anger, loss of temper and hatred. Those who wish to rule cannot admit this, because they themselves use violent moral crime in order to maintain their own power.

Censorship is but one example of the hypocrisy of capitalism's proponents who claim that their creed is a natural, self-regulating social system by which all of its members and their activities reach their own meritocratic level. **For Mammon would destroy itself if it were not tempered by censorship, or the control of drugs and arms, or the regulation of privatised industries to ensure that they do not make too much money, or the provision of state benefits to those whom it has made losers, or the regulation of monopolies and mergers, or the state funding of science and the arts. Capitalism does always fail.**

Anarchy will need no such tempering.

Capitalism expects so little from people. It assumes that we will only care for anyone other than ourselves, except maybe our families or close friends, if those others are 'customers'. **Anarchism, however, recognises that people have so much more than this to give and to contribute, and because they want to do so. Without spiritual desire there would be nothing driving our work, no fire, no reason, and the whole of humanity would be volatily simmering with discontent.**

Many people who demand deference from those whom they see as being ranked below them in their place of labour (or even, in a general sense, socially) hypocritically claim that people who do not labour are not contributing to society. It is only possible to make such a contribution if one regards all others as being equal citizens. Those who demand deference are in opposition to anarchism and so cannot possibly contribute to society nor believe that such a thing is even possible except through capitalism's serving of 'customers'.

If this psychological subterfuge succeeds, if we are ever truly left with nothing to hope for or aspire to other than personal, selfish, cynical escape from the mindless labour, the fight for survival which we ourselves have created, then we will be left

with nothing at all. Mankind will then have no future, because hope, the strongest political force there is, will have been lost for ever.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:17 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monday, March 1, 2010

[Richard W. Posner: Cancer, Capitalism and Annihilation](#)

Cancer, Capitalism and Annihilation

by Richard W. Posner [blog link](#)

Headed for Self Destruction

Cancer is a fascinating, if tragic, result of human arrogance and ignorance. It is, after all, only what should be expected in a highly complex organism that is attempting to evolve in an environment that is changing more rapidly than its reproductive cycle can keep up with. **What is particularly ironic about this situation is that the damage is self-inflicted.**

The chaotically changing environment is the creation of the creature being destroyed by it. How appropriate. How elegant. As organisms become larger and more complex it takes them longer to chance upon a mutation with positive attributes; changes that will improve the chances of survival. It may take hundreds, even thousands of generations for natural selection to work its random mutational magic in the larger more complicated animals. Simpler life forms such as bacteria, viruses and even many insects, because of their short life cycle and rapid, high volume reproductive capabilities, are able to mutate and adapt more quickly to an extremely dynamic environment. Within one or two generations, bacteria become resistant to antibiotics. Insects become immune to insecticides. Since the average life span of an ant or a worker bee is around ninety days, these changes can and do happen very quickly. Large creatures like homo sapiens need much longer to adapt to changes. The human race causes dangerous changes faster than it can adapt to them. Hence cancer.

The Cancer of Capitalism

I tend to think of capitalism, particularly the virulent free market variety, as a cancer in the body of the human race. In nature, the typical predator kills simply to survive. **Cancers on the other hand are not motivated by survival. They are mindless mutations that destroy their environment in a frenzied orgy of consumption, incapable of realizing that they are destroying themselves in the process.** Sounds like capitalism to me.

If you've ever tried to explain to a capitalist that they may be committing slow suicide or are, very probably, murdering their children or grandchildren through their mindless exploitation of everything imaginable, you know you may as well be speaking to a lump of coal. The state of denial they live in is so complete that no amount of factual, statistical data, however voluminous it may be, will have even the slightest impact. The best you can hope for is to be dismissed as a "conspiracy nut" or "tree hugger". They live within an impervious bubble of greed and short term self-interest that can not be penetrated by anything short of that which is capable of depriving them of their wealth or causing physical harm to their person.

Such laissez-faire, libertarian types claim that human rights do not exist, only those of the individual. **Individual rights have come to mean, in a world where greed is overwhelmingly the prime motivator, to serve your own interests exclusively without regard for the consequences to anyone else.** That is the simple picture of modern libertarianism as I see it. **Short-term gain, self-interest and instant gratification are given greater priority than even the survival of our species.** The libertarian of today has conflated "corporate persons" with "individual rights" and taken the concept to; the last one standing is the winner. **They believe it is their individual right to own any and everything of vital importance to survival and then charge everyone else an exorbitant fee for the privilege of staying alive.** In modernity, as far as I am concerned, the libertarian, capitalist, corporatist, feudalism, monarchist, plutocrat, and flat out military dictator are all

roses by another name. **They all want a two-class world of masters and slaves. The term “enlightened self-interest” is an oxymoron. It presupposes that the self serving individual is also benevolent. These are, in fact, mutually exclusive characteristics.**

How silly of me. Remorseless, ruthless self-interest with utter disregard for the consequences to anyone else is, of course, the most admirable and noble of aspirations. To be a libertarian, a free market capitalist, a corporate fascist or even just a good old fashioned military dictator, ah, how exhilarating! Who, in their far right mind, would ever desire the life of an honest, hard working, productive member of society? Who even wants a society? Good lord, how could one tolerate all that useless interaction with inferior workers and skulking merchants? The natural order is a very simple one. There are two races. There is the Master Race, those of us who are the true humans, who enjoy life unencumbered by conscience or compassion. Then there are the sub-human workers who simply are not intelligent, ambitious or aggressive enough to think of as real people. The Morlocks and the Eloi. I mean really, do you extend “human” rights to beasts of burden? I would certainly think not! So, what could possibly be wrong with that? Why, it is, quite simply, the laws of nature at work! I say bollocks to all this nonsense about treating each other with respect and dignity. It is, always has been and always will be every man for himself and always will be! Never forget the great libertarian Alistair Crowley, master of High Magick who said, “Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law”. Long live “individual rights” and “free will”. Down with “society”.

Presupposition is another word for assumption. I think it is safe to say that presuppositions are what have brought us the very deep shit we are presently up to our collective necks in. Most Americans supposed their government was acting in their best interests all these years. They assumed the “free” market was. They supposed they were living in a democracy, more or less. They assumed the corporations they supported all this time were here for the benefit of everyone and not just the CEO’s and investors. **Americans supposed theirs was the greatest and most wholesome nation on Earth while, in fact, it has been the most ravenous, deceitful and murderous empire in history. I have said and written, repeatedly, that capitalism is a system that can not succeed, that it inevitably can not result in anything other than terrible suffering for massive numbers of people and that it has a built in self-destruct mechanism. For decades we have seen the oppression, poverty, suffering and death it has caused. What we are witnessing today is the result of the self-destruct mechanism finally being fully engaged.** The capitalist machine has finally gone into critical overload; its engine has been blown. The mythical ocean of endless consumerism has finally gone dry leaving the capitalist leviathan gasping for life on the dry land of reality. The flopping and thrashing of its death throes will take many more innocents with it into oblivion.

The high priests of Mammon are frantically casting useless economic spells, performing meaningless financial liturgies and chanting impotent free market mantras, all to no avail. The machinations of Paulson and his ilk, the great TARP bailout and its like, are not solutions. **They only compound the problem, add to the destruction and ensure the complete collapse of the mythical capitalist empire.** The chain of events that has been set in motion has become self-sustaining like the detonation of a nuclear weapon. Once the reaction has begun it can’t be stopped. The only result can be complete annihilation.

The unbridled greed of a relatively small number of psychopathic power mongers has initiated a wide array of negative feedback loops. It isn’t the first time in history this has happened. It is the first time it has happened on a global scale. The redistribution of nearly all wealth to a tiny fraction of the population has all but eliminated consumerism. The resultant surpluses pile up and can’t be sold. This means more business failures which mean more unemployment which means more over supply which means more bankruptcies which mean more business failures which mean... Just one part of the cascade of disasters which are finally bringing us to the end of a disastrous era.

And so ends the Age of Pisces. According to those who follow such things the coming age is Aquarius. One can only hope.

Richard W. Posner

chimaera [blog home](#)

Searching For Signs Of Civilization [blog home](#)

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:07 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Ralph Nader: Empire, Oligarchy and Democracy

Empire, Oligarchy and Democracy

by Ralph Nader [article link](#) [article link](#)

Published on Monday, March 1, 2010 by CommonDreams.org

The twin swelling heads of Empire and Oligarchy are driving our country into an ever-deepening corporate state, wholly incompatible with democracy and the rule of law.

Once again the New York Times offers its readers the evidence. In its February 25, 2010 issue, two page-one stories confirm this relentless deterioration at the expense of so many innocent people.

The lead story illustrates that the type of massive speculation—casino capitalism, Business Week once called it—in complex derivatives is still going strong and exploiting the weak and powerless who pay the ultimate bill.

Titled "Banks Bet Greece Defaults on Debt They Helped Hide," the article shocks even readers hardened to tales of greed and abuse of power. Here are the opening paragraphs: "Bets by some of the same banks that helped Greece shroud its mounting debts may actually now be pushing the nation closer to the brink of financial ruin." ...

... These credit-default swaps increase the dreaded "systemic risk" that proliferates until it lands on the backs of taxpayers, workers and savers who pay the price. And if Greece goes, Spain or Portugal or Italy may be next and globalization will eventually bring the rapacious effects of mindless speculation to our shores.

Greece got into financial trouble for a variety of reasons, but it was widely reported that Goldman Sachs and other big banks showed them, for generous fees, how to hide the country's true financial condition. Avarice at work.

Note two points. These derivatives are contracts involving hundreds of billions of dollars and are essentially unregulated. These transactions are also essentially untaxed, unlike Europe's value added tax on manufacturing, wholesale and retail purchases. **The absence of government restraints produces unlimited predation.**

As astute investors in the real economy have said, **when money for speculation replaces money for investment, the real economy suffers and so do real people.** Remember the Wall Street collapse of 2008 and who is paying for the huge Washington bailout.

The other story shows that **the Presidency has become a self-driven Empire outside the law and unaccountable to its citizens.** The Times reports "how far the C.I.A. has extended its extraordinary secret war beyond the mountainous tribal belt and deep into Pakistan's sprawling cities." Working with Pakistan's counterpart agency, the C.I.A. has had some cover to do what it wants in carrying out "dozens of raids throughout Pakistan over the past year," according to the Times.

"Secret War" has been a phrase applied numerous times throughout the C.I.A.'s history, even though the agency was initially created by Congress right after World War II to gather intelligence, not engage in lethal operations worldwide.

Unrestrained by either Congress or the federal courts, Presidents say they can and do order their subordinates to go anywhere in the world, penetrate into any country, if they alone say it is necessary to seize and destroy for what they believe is the national security. American citizens abroad are not excluded. **Above the law and beyond the law spells the kind of lawlessness that the framers of our constitution abhorred in King George and limited in our country's separation of powers.**

Because our founders would not tolerate the President being prosecutor, judge, jury and executioner, they placed the war-declaration and appropriations authorities in the Congress.

Both Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama believe they have unbridled discretion to engage in almost any overt or covert acts. That is a definition of Empire that flouts international law and more than one treaty which the United States helped shape and sign. ...

... The American people must realize that their reckless government and corporate contractors are banking lots of revenge among the occupied regions that may come back to haunt. We have much more to lose by flouting international law than the suicidal terrorists reacting to what they believe is the West's state terrorism against their people and the West's historical backing of dictatorships which oppress their own population.

American was not designed for Kings and their runaway military pursuits. How tragic that we have now come to this entrenched imperium so loathed by the founding fathers and so forewarned by George Washington's enduring farewell address.

Where are "We the People"?

Ralph Nader is a consumer advocate, lawyer, and author. His most recent book - and first novel - is, Only The Super Wealthy Can Save Us. His most recent work of non-fiction is The Seventeen Traditions.

Ralph Nader [home page](#)

Stepping Up to the Age of Empathy

'Empathic Civilization': When Both Faith And Reason Fail

by Jeremy Rifkin [article link](#) [article link](#)

Published on Monday, March 1, 2010 by Huffington Post

The Huffington Post [home page](#)

Common Dreams [home page](#)

The Anti-Income Tax Movement: Why They Are Right

By Giordano Bruno [article link](#)

Neithercorp Press - 02/25/2010

Neithercorp Press [home page](#)

Surmounting The Armageddon Scenario & Cartel 'End Game'

by DeepCaster LLC [article link](#)

02.27.10

DeepCaster LLC [home page](#)

The SilverBear Cafe [home page](#)

Top 25 Censored Stories for 2010 [web page](#)

Project Censored [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:16 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Profile: The August Review](#)

From The August Review website:

General Information

The August Review is an exclusive Internet-based publication of the editor, Patrick M. Wood, and focuses on the Trilateral Commission, its members and activities.

The research "juggernaut" that was created by Wood and Antony Sutton to study the Trilateral Commission has been enhanced using various professional sources now available on the Internet. This editor is committed to performing original and innovative research, as opposed to re-hashing second hand or opinionated writings of other news services or commentators. The August Review also monitors the press for news stories relating to members, policies and meetings of the Trilateral Commission.

Marketing Tools

Readers of The August Review routinely ask, "What can I do?"

We empathize with everyone who is frustrated with lack of tangible, concrete things that can bring actual results. Letter writing campaigns, boycotts and the like are simplistic and ineffective. They may keep you busy, but they haven't changed much!

The only hope we have is in the citizens themselves. A grass roots ground-swell is our only hope to address the onslaught of globalization. Such a movement must be based on FACTS, not on opinion or rhetoric. No public debate will ever be won against globalism without definitive and defensible proof of your position.

The August Review exists to provide that kind of education and information **that allows you to take a firm stand on moral ground, able to withstand the shallow (yet persuasive) arguments of the global elite.**

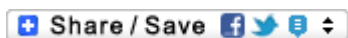
What can you do? Start with this...

A new sister publication, [The August Forecast](#), takes a look forward to analyze politics, the economy and various investment markets. The August Forecast is a member-based site. Bronze Membership is FREE and Gold Membership is \$99 per year. Gold membership provides for three timely Market Updates per week that focus on current trends in equities, metals, currencies and bonds.

Below are collateral flyers (more items will be added later) that you can use as hand-outs, mailers, posters, etc. We urge you to download and print as many of these as you need, and help get this information into the hands of people in your community.

Click [here](#) to download The August Review Flyer

The August Review [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:20 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Sunday, February 28, 2010

Church of God (COG): Esther As Archetype

Feast of Purim: Esther performs a subversive transformation of identity and power; she compasses simultaneously contradictory positions; she both submits and presides; she makes an eloquent plea against enslavement and violence [Esther 7] - she calls for liberation; external identity is a "mask" for her internal being; she is what she did not seem to be, a Jew, at the same instant, Esther "comes out" as a woman - just as she unmask the truth of herself as Jew, she unmask the truth of herself as woman; having masqueraded as a submissive being, she manifests herself as a potent, commanding leader who imminently takes the king's authority in her hands, legislates, and makes royal appointment - the Jews in Persia are transformed from oppressed people to empowered self-defenders - **ESTHER TRANSFORMS HERSELF FROM OPPRESSED OBJECT TO STRIDENT COMMANDING SUBJECT**; Esther's indomitable humane compassion [vs. a self-absorbed power like the king and Haman] drives her to risk her own life to oppose narrow and violent evil ["If I perish, I perish" (Esther 4:16)] -- Esther's solution respects the integrity of the body by deconstructing the text [repeal the order of annihilation], yet the king has no power to revoke his own seal; the only recourse is to issue new orders giving the Jews permission to defend themselves; the monarch's solution destroys the body while maintaining the text intact: the outcome of the story enacts the horrific consequences of the displacement of integrity from human life to text -- Esther affirms her humane kindness, by contrast, the violent outcome is a perverse inversion, a mockery of divine immutability, and a displacement of the sacred from our texts and table !! -- **TEXTUAL ACTIVISM IS A CHRISTIAN DUTY, A REASONING TOGETHER !!** - Esther was an activist whose potent insurgence foiled a plot of global proportions; the Fast of Esther (preceding Purim, the Feast) is a day of strategy, a day to steel our resolve to foil all roots of evil: **IT IS TIME TO UNMASK AND DISMANTLE, TO DECONSTRUCT THE PERVERSE, THE WICKEDNESS OF THIS WORLD !!** -- [based on "Unmasking the Scroll of Esther"; Tikkun (Mar/Apr 2002 edition)]

The Road to Armageddon

By Paul Craig Roberts [article link](#)

February 26, 2010 "Information Clearing House"

Complexity and Collapse

Empires on the Edge of Chaos

By Niall Ferguson [article link](#) [article link](#)

Summary: - Imperial collapse may come much more suddenly than many historians imagine. A combination of fiscal deficits and military overstretch suggests that the United States may be the next empire on the precipice.

February 26, 2010 "Foreign Affairs" - March/April 2010 Edition

CFR Foreign Affairs [issues](#)

Information Clearing House [home page](#)

Twenty-First Century Breakdown

by Jim Quinn [article link](#)

02.24.10

SilverBear Cafe [home page](#)

21st Century Strategy: Militarized Europe, Globalized NATO

by Rick Rozoff [article link](#)

Global Research, February 26, 2010

Global Research [home page](#)

The Military Conundrum: Follow Orders, Or Follow The Constitution?

by Giordano Bruno [article link](#)

Neithercorp Press - 02/18/2010

Neithercorp Press [web page](#)

Saturday, February 27, 2010

Societal Fears Override God

MM Book 2 Chapter 7-5

All of the evil around us is the result of something; it is up to each of us to understand this !! – SOCIETAL FEARS OVERRIDE GOD !! – THE SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF HUMANITY IS REFLECTED IN THE PHYSICAL, this applies to *all* situations and actions; these are terminal spiritual sicknesses, **MANKIND IS SPIRITUALLY ILL !!** – ONLY CHRIST PROVIDES THE HEALING [SALVATION] — PATHOS [suffering; disease; feeling], the “quality” in something experienced or observed which arouses feelings of pity, sorrow, sympathy, or compassion; the ** MINISTRY OF TEARS ** answering the collective unconscious, the THEOGNOSIS, the knowledge and recognition [diagnosis]; the health of the community is measured by the number who participate in it [MINISTRY OF GIFTS]; DIVINE HEALING — Genetic Memory [spiritual/physical influences and characteristics imprinted; passed from generation to generation] must be a consideration — **the one who has infused his own EVIL and FEARFUL spirit into others, who actuates and governs their minds, the originator and transmitter of all spiritual disease [LUST; his spiritual sacrifice] is SATAN the DEVIL !!** – WE MUST KNOW THIS TO BE HEALED BY CHRIST, BY HIS TRUTH !!

MM Book 2 Chapter 7-6

They say the “price of freedom is high”, well God say’s there is no price on freedom; He offers it *free*, it is His to give !! – **those who offer freedom at a price are offering slavery instead, to their systemic, and the price of their systemic is very high indeed;** it is a price that we cannot pay and too many have died trying [paid the ultimate price] !! — **the corporate monies have value because the evil is maintained [the servicing of Mammon; building holocaust]; the “price of freedom” is actually oppression – apathy fed by ignorance will lead to our extinction !! – WE EITHER SERVE GOD OR SERVE MAMMON;** we must know what it means to serve God; we already know what it means to serve Mammon – **the pain of the past [the fear] envelops each new generation; it is overwhelming our sanity;** if we want our dreams to come true, we must first wake up !! – this [contrived and imposed] world is a realm of suffering and confusion [God is not the author of confusion]; **the major source of suffering is ignorance and the major expression of ignorance is the belief in a Self** – we must become conscious of the fundamental discontinuity and therefore illusion of Self; our purpose, our goal is to be *one with God*, our sense of Self within the One [individually we are NOT one, *together* we are one] – our individual stories are our essence; our goal is not to escape our stories, but to make our stories sacred [WE MUST WRITE OURSELVES INTO THE BOOK OF LIFE] !! – **the unique torture of modernity [its thoroughness; impact] is the sense of being disassociated, de-storied [de-humanized], displaced [nameless, devoid of context, history, soul print; SEPARATED FROM OURSELVES AND GOD]** – through pain, the torturer aims to force the victim to betray and abandon his story – to lose hope in life is to lose the thread of your story; to recover hope is to reweave the fabric of your story. [Sacred Stories based on Tikkun]

MM Book 2 Chapter 7 [web page](#) (widescreen)

MM Book 2 [blog home](#)

David DeGraw: How to Fight Back and Win 1

Part VI: How to Fight Back and Win: Common Ground Issues That Must Be Won — The Economic Elite Vs. The People of the USA

By David DeGraw, AmpedStatus Report [article link](#)

Posted on Saturday, February 27th, 2010

[Note: the multiple links included in the original article are not included in this posting; due to its importance the whole article, not an excerpt is presented here]

This is the final part of a six-part report. Click on the links below to view earlier parts. After reading this, please consider getting involved with this effort by clicking the link at the bottom of this post.

I: Casualties of Economic Terrorism, Surveying the Damage [article link](#)

II: The Rise of the Economic Elite [article link](#)

III: Exposing Our Enemy - Meet the Economic Elite [article link](#)

IV: The Financial Coup d'Etat [article link](#)

V: Overcoming the Divide and Conquer Strategy [article link](#)

VI: How to Fight Back and Win: Common Ground Issues That Must Be Won [article link](#)

VI: How to Fight Back and Win: Common Ground Issues That Must Be Won

Throughout this report, I have presented statistical and fact-based evidence to demonstrate that a strategic attack has been launched against 99% of Americans. Despite the efforts of the mainstream media and most current politicians, awareness of this reality is spreading throughout the United States. A recent Rasmussen poll found that only 21% of Americans think that the government has the consent of the governed. An Opinion Research Corp. survey revealed that 86% believe “the system of government is broken.”

An overwhelming majority of the population has come to the realization that our government doesn't effectively represent us anymore. It is just a matter of time before people start taking it upon themselves to begin organizing on a mass scale. Our survival instinct will soon overwhelm our conditioned passivity and erupt into a powerful countervailing force. However, the longer we hesitate and delay action, the harder it will be to obtain economic and political justice.

We cannot continue to stand by and watch our nation be raped and pillaged like this. We can no longer remain idle and passive while our families' futures are destroyed as we are sentenced to a slow death.

It's time for 99% of Americans to mobilize and aggressively move on common sense political reforms.

We will obviously have many differences on how our country should be run, but we can all come together to dismantle the Economic Elite by making several pivotal political reforms. **As long as the game is rigged in favor of the Economic Elite, we will all lose.** So let's find common ground and focus on several obvious battles that we need to win, and can win:

Election Reform

“The right of voting for representatives is the primary right by which all other rights are protected. To take away this right is to reduce a man to slavery.”

— Thomas Paine, Dissertation on the First Principles of Government

* Electronic Voting: First and foremost, no private corporation should be able to tell us who has won an election without providing an auditable paper trail. Many Democrats felt that Bush stole the 2000 and 2004 elections, and many Republicans felt Obama stole the 2008 election. Of course people are going to feel that elections are stolen when you have a private corporation secretly counting the votes; it is the inevitable result when you can't verify the election results. In the past few

years companies that count the votes have been consolidating, and one company, ES&S, now secretly controls the majority of all our votes. As voting watchdog Brad Friedman stated, “With the ES&S takeover of Diebold/Premier, their nearest competitor, the privately-run election Goliath now has an un-overseeable lock on virtually every election in the United States of America.” It is common sense to say that this is way too much power to be put into one private corporation.

* Campaign Finance: The stunning ruling by the Supreme Court to allow unlimited political spending by the Economic Elite has made a bad situation even worse. **We must level the playing field by enacting laws to prevent the overwhelming influence of big money interests in controlling politicians** who are forced to pander to them for the ever-increasing need to raise more and more money to have any shot at winning public office. Statistics show how much the Economic Elite already dominate this process: over 90% of the time the candidate who simply spends more money on their campaign wins the election.

* The Two-Party Oligarchy: **We must end the two-party system by funding and voting for alternative parties.** It is absurd and completely outdated to only have two dominant political parties in a technologically advanced nation of 309 million people. The two-party paradigm is obsolete and creates a system easily manipulated, as the past decade proves with the co-option of the Democratic and Republican parties. We can give our money and support to whomever we like - Libertarians, Tea Party, Progressives, Greens, Independents and the many soon-to-be-created political groups. However, **it is pivotal that we immediately cease support for both the Republican and Democratic parties.** We understand that there are representatives from both parties who are fighting for our interests, but they are very few and easily marginalized by paid-off party leaders.

* Getting on the Ballot: Republicans and Democrats have created rules to make it increasingly difficult for opposing political parties to even get on the voting ballot. We must make this process easier and invite new parties onto the ticket.

* Debate Commission: The Democratic and Republican control over who is allowed to participate in the nationally televised debates gives the two parties an insurmountable advantage over any other parties. If you are not even allowed to participate in them, you have no shot at winning. Along with this, all candidates should be given a fair share of television coverage.

* Voter Registration: If you are a citizen, you should be automatically registered to vote.

Governmental Policy Formation

* Secrecy, Transparency and Accountability: **Government secrecy is at the root of most of our current societal and economic problems.** When decisions are made in secrecy, corruption will most often be the result. **By throwing light and investigation on the government policy process, we can easily expose the Economic Elite’s agenda and limit their influence.** As part of this, all legislation and conference reports must be posted online prior to Congressional debate and vote.

* Lobbying: Along with campaign finance, political lobbying is another way the Economic Elite can easily manipulate our political process financially, in what amounts to legalized bribery. In 2009, a record amount of money was spent lobbying Congress, and now with the new Supreme Court ruling, lobbyists will have even more power to manipulate the political process with what amounts to buying the laws of our nation. Lobbying activities behind closed doors must cease entirely and equal time must be given, transparently, to all the parties directly affected by the law being written.

* Shutting the Revolving Door: **No politician should be allowed to profit from government laws or policies which they have written or supported.** The practice of leaving a major company to become a politician who then creates and/or supports laws that directly benefit the corporation he or she used to work for, or, conversely, politicians who leave public office to take a high-paying job for a company they have benefited, is a grotesque abuse and manipulation of the democratic process. The revolving door between politics and big business is worse than it has ever been and has corrupted the government like never before.

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:10 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

David DeGraw: How to Fight Back and Win 2

Information Platforms

* Media Concentration: Having a few large multinational corporations dominating the overwhelming majority of our news and information system will never lead to an informed citizenry. Only ten multinational corporations dominate our mainstream media system. **These companies are run by 118 individuals who actively work to propagate Economic Elite rule. The people who run these media companies also sit on other corporate boards that often represent a major conflict of interest.** Having only 118 people in ten companies dominating a system that creates public opinion for 309 million people is absurd. **We must break up this information cartel and support a more diverse and vibrant independent press that fosters real investigative journalism.**

* Net Neutrality: The free and open architecture of the Internet is vital to our success. Without an open Internet our most powerful medium for research and communication, and key organizing tool, will be lost. The Internet must be protected from growing forces that seek to control it by limiting our access to information and our ability to communicate on a mass scale.

Healthcare

* Medical Costs: We have disagreements on how to best provide healthcare, but we all agree that whatever the method, the result needs to be lower costs. We have the most expensive healthcare system in the world and we now pay twice as much as other nations. Other than creating huge salaries for health industry-related executives, there isn't any reason why we should be forced to pay such outrageous sums of money for second-rate care. No American should die due to lack of money, or have to face bankruptcy in order to get life-sustaining treatments.

* Food and Water Supply: Our food and water supply systems have become a major health hazard. The amount of harmful chemicals found in both our food and water have reached record levels and is causing alarming levels of sickness in a growing number of people.

Real Economic Competition

* Most Americans Believe in Competition: If a person works hard, is productive and good at what they do, most everyone believes that they should make more than a person who sits around looking for handouts. However, just as in sports, to maintain a competitive environment you have to have rules in place that prevent people from having an unfair advantage. For those who believe in competition, in capitalism and free markets, you have to acknowledge that **what we have now is not a free market based on fair competition.** It is a rigged market, where larger institutions like Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan have an unfair advantage. We cannot allow them to be beyond the law, manipulate the market and then receive taxpayer funds to increase profits and risk-taking while smaller companies, outside of Economic Elite circles, have to play by a much stricter set of rules.

You can't have free market capitalism when you have government policies favoring companies that have more political clout than others. **What we have is socialism for the rich and trickle down economics for the rest of us.** We have a market systemically designed to funnel money into the pockets of the richest. If the past few years have proved anything, they have proved that our economy is much more like a pyramid scheme than a free market, where the more money you have, the more money you make. So whatever your economic beliefs and theories might be, let's all come together to admit that our "free market" is an illusion. We need to make the economic playing field fair so we that can have real competition.

* Redistribution of Wealth: Due to the rigging of our economic and political system, vast sums of wealth have been hoarded by the Economic Elite over the past 40 years. This money must be redistributed to the 99% of Americans who have been robbed and exploited. There will be much heated debate over how this money should be distributed, but **we all need to agree that we must first hold the Economic Elite accountable and our wealth must be seized from them.**

* Investigations and Prosecutions: The Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission has the power to reveal the inner workings of the financial coup. We must apply intense public pressure and scrutiny to force the Commission into conducting a real investigation. Another urgent priority needs to be a much wider-ranging look at war profiteering. There has been some investigation, but not nearly enough and hardly any prosecution. These are just two of the many investigations that need to be launched. **As long as we keep letting the Economic Elite get away with outright theft in broad daylight, we will never be able to restore a nation of law.**

There are obviously other vital issues that need to be addressed, but these are the core common-ground issues that we must urgently rally around and support. **Unless we organize and take decisive action on all these issues, we will all suffer the consequences of our collective inaction.** Any politician who does not urgently move on these issues must be voted out of office and replaced by people who will aggressively fight on these fronts.

These are the core issues that keep the Economic Elite in power. As famed military strategist Carl von Clausewitz wrote in his study "On War," **it is pivotal to strike at this core structure, at "the hub of all power and movement, on which everything depends."**

To those Americans who feel powerless to change things, I say that your feelings are only a result of your induced delusion. **You have become so propagandized that you do not even understand the significant position that you are in.** We are not peasants trapped in a Third World existence. **We are still a mass of people who have the power to change the course of history.** The Economic Elite realize this, which is why they are attacking us with an increased intensity.



Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:59 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Saturday, February 27, 2010

David DeGraw: How to Fight Back and Win 3

**Why We Must Take Mass Organized Action Now:
The Devastation Ahead**

Market Watch recently ran an article entitled, "Death of American Capitalism: The 10 final scenes." The article references Charlie Munger, Warren Buffett's long-time investment partner, stating: "Munger is warning us 'It's Over' for America. Yes, 'o-v-e-r,' America's in decline, at the end-of-days, coming to 'financial ruin,' says Munger."

As a result of the Economic Elite's attack on us, the inequality of wealth between the economic top one percent and the remaining 99% of the population is the highest it has ever been in our nation's history. The Robber Barons of the Gilded Age have now been overtaken as America's most depraved and despotic class.

As this attack continues, social safety nets and important public functions that are already reaching a breaking point will collapse under the weight of prolonged decline. With the national deficit now at an all-time high, economists are expecting major cutbacks in vital government programs and tax increases "that aren't even imaginable." President Obama has recently put together a "Deficit Commission" and is prepared to make "painful choices." Many state economies are already

running high deficits and preparing for deep cuts in Medicaid and retirement pensions. Major cuts in Social Security payments are also a real possibility.

On top of the 160 banks that have already failed in the past year, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) has listed another 702 banks as being in danger of failing. These banks “collectively hold more than \$400 billion in assets” and the FDIC is already operating at “a deficit of nearly \$21 billion as of Dec. 31, or more than double the previous quarter.”

With 30 million Americans now unemployed and underemployed, over the next few months five million people will lose the unemployment benefits which they have been surviving off of. Unemployment benefits in 27 states have already gone into the red. In total 40 state programs are expected to go broke. Even the most optimistic economists believe high unemployment rates will continue for the foreseeable future.

Millions more will be added to the five million families who have already been kicked out of their homes, as the number of foreclosures is expected to reach 13 million within the next few years. Food and homeless shelters are already overwhelmed, and there will be millions more in need of these life-sustaining services. 50 million Americans are currently in need of food stamps for survival and approximately 20,000 new people are added to this total every day.

Despite all the healthcare reform talk, the bill still being discussed will do little to reduce costs and extend coverage to those who urgently need it, as insurance rates continue to rise. The number of Americans without health insurance continues to skyrocket to now well over 50 million, with 45,000 preventable US citizen deaths occurring per year. Due to economic hardship, the number of people suffering from psychological depression has hit an all-time high, as suicide rates keep rising.

With a prison population of 2.3 million people, we now have more people incarcerated than any other nation in the world. Our per capita rate of 700 people imprisoned per 100,000 citizens is higher than the darkest days of the Soviet Union. On top of this, the prison industry is expecting major growth over the next few years, as a “new prison opens every week somewhere in America” and Obama commits more tax dollars for the federal Bureau of Prisons.

All told, the death and destruction wrought by this economic crisis is equivalent to a 9/11 attack every single week! And the attacks continue unabated, with no significant measures taken to defend against them and hold those responsible accountable.

With almost 200 million Americans now living paycheck to paycheck, and over 50 million already living in poverty, people are quickly running out of options. The clock is ticking loudly for them, and time delayed is time closer to death.

At the same time, Americans are arming themselves at an alarming rate. The demand for guns and ammunition has hit a record high, and the gun industry cannot produce enough bullets to keep up with orders. In the past year, 100 new armed militia groups have been formed, as militia members have doubled in numbers. Federal authorities are gravely concerned about the “uptick in militia activities.” One federal authority recently said, “All it’s lacking is a spark. I think it’s only a matter of time before you see threats and violence.”

The recent suicide-bomber who hit the IRS building in Texas will be the first of many violent acts if we don’t demonstrate that justice and the rule of law can be restored in a non-violent manner. Suicide-bombers have already reeked havoc in many countries across the globe. As the last act of revenge and desperation, people throughout the world have increasingly resorted to this method of violence and terror.

Fate has placed us in our nation’s most pivotal moment. If we do not take it upon ourselves to lead in decisive non-violent mass action, our country will soon be torn apart by violence and destruction.

In our nation’s history, the stakes have never been higher. It is vital that we recognize the urgent gravity of the situation. **What happens over the next few years will determine the fate of our very way of life, of our families’ very existence.** We have been attacked, and we are now at war. This is the unfortunate reality of our current crisis.

Our enemy is extraordinarily powerful. However, we are 99% of the US population, and they are only 1%. If we fight, we win!

“Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never has, and it never will.”
– Frederick Douglass

“All men recognize the right of revolution; that is, the right to refuse allegiance to, and to resist, the government, when its tyranny or its inefficiency is great and unendurable. And oppression and robbery are organized, I say; let us not have such a machine any longer. I think that it is not too soon for honest men to rebel and revolutionize.”
– Henry David Thoreau, On the Duty of Civil Disobedience

“We have no choice left.... A concealed yes drives us that is stronger than all our no's. Our strength itself will no longer endure us in the old decaying soil. We venture away, we venture ourselves! We know of a new world.”
– Friedrich Nietzsche

GET INVOLVED: We are going to begin outreach to organizations that are working on the core common ground issues mentioned in this report. If you plan to take action on any of these issues or would like to be involved in this effort, please sign up [here](#).

Amped Status founder and editor David DeGraw
Amped Status [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:50 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Friday, February 26, 2010

[Anarchism and Truth 6](#)

A Treatise of the Spiritual Aspects of Anarchism
by Peter Ostrowski
excerpts con't:

The 'industrialised' countries, of which Britain is one, garner a disproportionate part of the world's wealth and possessively hold it close, prepared even to murder in order to defend it. For not only is war murder, but so is the world-wide economic competition which starves millions. Moreover, given the arbitrary nature of country boundaries, all war is therefore civil war, whether it be in the form of armed combat or interpersonal socio-economic competition; we are citizens of one planet.

It appears that this is how most of the employed want the world to be. It is how most of the unemployed want the world to be. To then have the temerity to complain of being victims of such a system, or to pity the poor they themselves have created, is hypocritical, arrogant and wholly self-centred [we are complicit]. We speak of the concessions by which the unemployed are allowed to survive as being safety nets'. But why are we walking tightropes?

Countries do not exist - we have fabricated them from our bigotries. We have made them up. This is the most fundamental tenet of social organisation. **Exploitative labour is maintained not by the ruling class, but by the exploited themselves. The exploited comprise the army, the one and only tool available to the rich and powerful with which to subjugate the majority, and to protect their own riches and power. The control of armed forces is ultimately the root of their power, the coercive mechanism which enables men to force their will onto others and to steal the common land.** It was only because people who possessed this violent might took and divided the land long ago that exploitative labour ever came into being. People were spread so sparsely over the Earth that it was possible for anyone to find a plot of land, build

their own home and grow their own food. If people had not been prevented from continuing to live so freely, trade and money could never have come into existence.

The existence of armed forces, therefore, is both a direct consequence of capitalism and a major prerequisite for its continuing survival. One cannot be without the other.

It is often said that prostitution is the world's oldest profession ('profession' is always misused in this common aphorism, of course - it is actually used here to mean exploitative labour). But this cannot be so, for military activity must be older still. Prostitution exists because of money - capitalism - which is forced upon us only by military means. Therefore there had to have been armies before there had been prostitution. The first exploited workers were soldiers.

The people of our world - the citizens of our global society, present and past - are lacking almost totally in pride, self-respect, dignity, a sense of the numinous and hope for our collective future. **In place of these things fester violent hatred and nationalism, religion and superstition, and a fear of science, coupled with an inability to understand either it or the nature of its spirit. If we do not respect ourselves, then how may we ask for respect from others?** We allow people to demand deference from us, and then meekly give it. This is my life - nobody has a right to tell me what to do, and I have no right to do likewise to anyone else - others' lives are their own. Only when we have first accepted this fundamental truth can we possibly accept responsibility for working towards mankind's future.

How can the exploited complain of their lot if they are not anarchists? About whom do they complain if not themselves? **If they want capitalism, then they want to compete to stay alive, they want the ever present threat of redundancy, they want to be at constant risk of losing the game of Mammon.** However, perhaps they do have this right of resentment if they have been enslaved and repressed, for a lifetime or for generations, and have had their intellectual and spiritual development stunted to such a degree that they don't even know what their basic human rights are. So many times I have tried to speak of rights and pride to such timid, obedient people as these, and have always found it frustratingly difficult to do when they so easily take deep offence at such frightening ideas.

Thus people who are trying to instigate anarchy are not trying to tell others what to do - they simply wish **to ensure that individuals are fully capable of both making and exercising choices** in their lives. **A social system which allows this is by definition named Anarchy.**

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:16 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Anarchism and Truth 7

A Treatise of the Spiritual Aspects of Anarchism

by Peter Ostrowski

excerpts con't:

We allow God's land to be carved up and owned by a few and call the land - our land - property. Almost the whole world is chartered in this way, and we offer no opposition to this theft of our common heritage. Indeed, the popular use of the word heritage has been vulgarised to imply the ownership of the world by a few. **Yet the ownership of the one thing which is above anything else the personal property of the individual - our very lives and minds and will - we unquestioningly throw away.** We have damaged ourselves so badly that we cannot see that no one has the right to tell another what to do, to give orders, to starve, to murder, to imprison. We even surrender time. Our lives are so short, like the blinking of an eye compared to the cosmic time-scale, and still we speak of this time, this handful of years, as if it were not our own. We sell it to our masters so that we may live, and regard these contracts as just and fair. The 'theft of time' from these exploiters - shirking, impunctuality, sick leave - are condemned as anti-social, and we even speak of 'spare time', when we are not being abused and enslaved. But this time is ours! It is our lives! Must we be so helpless and obsequious? A day is such a precious thing, yet we let them all slip by, unused, one after the other until we die.

If people are not anarchists, then it is only they who must justify their reactionary stance. Yet although non-anarchists have vastly more opportunity than anarchists to expound their views, I have never heard anyone attempt to do so using a logically consistent argument. Not only do capitalists not understand anarchism, but it appears that they do not understand capitalism. Its proponents cannot justify it. **There can be no subjective argument about right or wrong - if the mental handicap responsible for capitalism is responsible for the daily murder of millions, then it is wrong and must be cured or eradicated.** It is not possible for there to be a logically consistent counter-argument to this, and it is a waste of time to listen to anyone attempting to expound one. Anarchists need not justify that which is, by definition, the only way to facilitate mankind's survival and progress. Choosing and supporting capitalism entails wanting to live in poverty or under the constant threat of redundancy and poverty equally as much as wanting to live in wealth and luxury, for it is not possible for capitalism to exist without all these things. It also entails wishing such restriction and injustice on all other people. **Capitalism's apologists claim that such a system facilitates the individual's freedom and choice. It does no such thing, because the free would not choose servitude.** Under capitalism, social responsibility consists of being compliant, deferential and obedient, and merely deepening the age-old furrows worn by the machine of the system we live by. This social responsibility includes no form of contribution to society other than interpersonal and international economic competition - ultimately, to the death.

In places of exploitative labour (and, indeed, outside of such environments) **so many people are quite prepared and willing to show deference to those who tell them what to do. No man has a right to give orders to another under such circumstances - that is, under the blackmail and violent coercion of capitalism** - and conversely, for humanity's sake, no one has the right to give in to such false authority and offer such abject deference to others.

Governments aim to combat insurrection by exploiting this human weakness and seeking to create a strong and pervasive sense of hierarchy in society. In the workplace, if individuals are forced to compete within an infrastructure of fluid, meritocratic pay scales, then this will serve to destroy any sense of solidarity between those fellow workers, for everyone will then be at everyone else's throat - there will be no coherent 'mass' of employees, strong in their number. Also, by creating a culture where everyone is considered a 'consumer' or 'provider', governments ensure the fragmentation of industrial organisations, again stifling any possible spirit of solidarity.

So many accept and never question a great divide between 'manager' and 'worker'. Yet managers - secretaries and supervisors - serve no purpose other than to assist workers by organising their work for them. They have no other possible use, and if they do not perform competently then the workers must replace them with others. It is possible for entire companies - banks and suchlike, for example - to comprise no workers, in which case that whole organisation exists for no reason other than to serve and assist those who do work.

All the media perpetuate the capitalist ethos of home-owning, that is, the belief that a home is an investment and not a place to live. Anyone who regards their house as a monetary gamble and not a dwelling place must be prepared for the value of their investment to decrease as well as to increase. People who simply want a roof over their heads obviously desire low house prices, whereas capitalists speak of such a housing market as being 'depressed', and wish for prices to increase, which they then regard as being a 'recovery' of this market. **People who choose to attempt to scale such a property ladder forfeit all rights of complaint against any loss or state of poverty they themselves suffer at Mammon's hand.**

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:03 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Thursday, February 25, 2010

We Must Refuse The Imposed Consumption

The augmentative oppression of humanity by technology; the cutting-edge [the real cutting-edge is the two-edged sword of God's truth (preaching and witness); REDEFINING OURSELVES AND HUMANITY] -- ANY CHOICE IS BEING REMOVED; WE ARE BEING FORCED !! - THERE IS NO CONSIDERATION GIVEN, OR PROVISION MADE, FOR NATURE OR PEOPLE TO REMAIN UNAFFECTED - **ALL IS CLAIMED, TAKEN !!** - THE COG MUST BE THE UNAFFECTED, THE UNINFECTED !! -- **SOCIETY MUST REBEL !!** - Christian non-participation, active resistance [intentional, deliberate obstruction **BY REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE** (not destruction, demolition; but destructive to the cause or means; withdrawal) to any SAGE-Corporate cause, movement, activity, effort, etc.], not "corporate" doomsaying [as an art form; media; mainstream and the COG Inc.]; *complete detachment*, BEYOND DETERRENCE !! - as Christians we cannot in good-conscience participate in the world's imposed systemic, to any degree [**CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS**] - we cannot improve peoples lives, empower them as individuals, if we destroy who we are as human beings by our technological gods [gods without the guiding maturity, the (God-given) wisdom necessary]; OUR TRUE GOD-GIVEN HUMANITY HAS NEVER BEEN EXPRESSED; ONLY THE CONTRIVED HAS BEEN EXPRESSED, AND CONTINUES TO BE SO; THE COG HAS FAILED IN ITS PURPOSE !! - the virtualization of humanity, a new type of life-form [transhumanism] looming - the complexity [the intelligent design] of a human cell is beyond man's scope at this time; we must stand back in amazement at who, and what we are, and will be !! [WE MUST RECOGNIZE AND HONOR OUR CREATOR, AND HIS DESIGN] -- **societal meltdown and large-scale mass murder [HOLOCAUST] is a future possibility**; the neural net of society must be understood, employed for technological advance - special-interest groups [determining choice], individualists [cancer like choices] threaten humanity more than technology.

Commercial culture is seen as a benefit - positive externalities taken; association of the positive aspects of humanity, society, by the corporate - advertising [the imposed; the curriculum of society (**the ability to imagine an alternative future diminished; a loss of our humanity !!**)] paid for by the consumer [within the retail price, and our collective conscience], corporate income-tax deductions; "advertising" seen as the power to propel humanity, the technological society -- we must counter advertising by education, we must understand the science [psychological warfare] of persuasion, coercion; **WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF OUR IDENTITY !!** -- measuring up to someones elses reflection of ourselves, a constructed image; we have grown up corporate, especially the youth of today - the images take on a reality of their own; the visual medium is real, socially constructed images !! - URGED TO BUY, TRY, COMPLY !! - citizenry media literacy is critically important; the inoculation of our minds [vs. women as bodies, men as minds]; we must deconstruct the images, the messages [the implications], the means used !! - we are socialized to rely on the images; success is linked [the corporate promises]; reinforcement by others -- we must avoid the corporate, the false logo's [THE TRUE LOGOS IS CHRIST; THE WORD OF GOD]; intrusive visual pollution is flooding our minds; we must develop a mental barrier; **WE MUST DAM THE MESSAGE OF THE DAMNED !!** - **the media must reflect society NOT society reflecting the media - our identity is wrapped up in our history, but our history is manufactured !!** -- a paradigm shift within culture or outside of culture ?? - the shift is from without, EXPATRIATION INTO GOD'S COMMUNITY, A SEPARATE CULTURE [GOD'S TABLE] !! - we must refuse the imposed consumption [the proliferation; the cancer]; OUR OWN COGNITION MUST BE OF PRIMARY CONCERN - WE ARE BEING MOULDED AND *NOT* BY THE MASTER POTTER !! - our intellect is being *bypassed* by the visual (and the music (the social tune)) -- **private-corporate interest and benefit are NOT in the public interest, or for public benefit !!** -- [multiple sources, including NPR All Things Considered and Talk of the Nation, concerning the commercialization of culture]

 Share / Save   

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:51 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Joe Bageant: The Corporate State 1

Round Midnight: Tortillas and the Corporate State

By Joe Bageant [article link](#) [article link](#)

February 25, 2010 "ICH"

... There is a terrible science fiction-like awe in the autonomous American economic monolith, in the way that it provides for us, feeds on us and keeps us as its both its lavish pets and slaves. **The commodity economy long ago enslaved Americans and other "developed" capitalist societies. But Americans in particular. The most profound slavery must be that in which the slaves can conceive of no other possible or better world than their bondage.** Inescapable, global, all permeating, the commodities economy rules so thoroughly most cannot imagine any other possible kind of economy.

It comes down to owning stuff, and that the stuff we own also owns us (as anyone paying rent for a storage locker can attest). Transmogrified by industrial materialism, we have become what we own. More specifically, what we are observed by the rest of our society as owning. **In the commodified society of industrial materialism, owning is being.** So much so, that politicians bandy the term "ownership society" about, not only without causing the public to gag, but to cheers. Even liberals who claim to dislike the term don't want to be in a "We don't own shit society."

Early modern capitalism was more or less understandable, if not always pleasant. One can see why a pre-industrial world that had owned less would embrace owning a bit more. **Who gave a damn if it came from Adam Smith's "unseen hand," the hand that was taking care of the already rich, who in turn managed the order of the world as seen through the lens of aristocratic and bourgeoisie English commerce.** "If we work our guts out Nellie, we can buy a pork knuckle every Sunday. And a featherbed, if you get my drift. Woo Hoo!"

Enter the reign of the bourgeoisie, **self-appointed and self-interested** middlemen to anything and everything. The sheer complexity of the industrial revolution and associated finance was a dog that could fatten many fleas.

When the bourgeoisie did not get what it felt was a good cut of the action from the monarchies, it raised hell, sometimes enough to cause revolutions. If they won, as they did in America, they took credit for establishing democracy. If they lost, they fobbed it off as a "people's revolution," leaving the working slobs, the actual producers of wealth, to face the king's hangmen.

Even when "the people" occasionally win one of those "people's revolutions", we never really win. Not in the end. For instance, here in Mexico, contrary to what we've seen in Zapata movies, there has never been a successful people's revolution in terms of lasting and real egalitarian reform. Just armed struggle, and many promises of reform, always to be abandoned after the revolution. They were subsequently wiped out by the politically potent urban middle class, in league with traditional elites, such as the hacendados and corporatists. The bourgeoisie never gives up its profitable connections to the elites. Same as in America. The bourgeoisie lives at the pleasure of the elites.

However, in the people's revolutions it was mainly "the people" who got killed. So they get naming rights. The people own their revolution only in death. Just as in the U.S., the elites here and the business classes get everything else and rent it back to us as mortgages or whatever.

You can argue that people have always screwed other people for a buck, or a drachma or a shekel. You will win with that argument every time. **However, the real issue is about how many people got screwed and how hard by how few.** Under 250 years of capitalism, the rising take from the ongoing screw job has grown astronomical. Enough to buy every political tub-thumper in Washington and a Supreme Court. **Enough that if the elite cartels on Wall Street rip 300 million Americans for trillions, leaving them squinting at the fine print on their eviction notices, they cannot do jack about it.** Except pay the next ransom demand for their credit. On their credit cards. Then sign their children into future debt slavery.

We are all Mexicans now ...

Humping the Big Lie

Meanwhile, somebody has to hump The Big Lie, maintain the appearance to the rest of the world that American cowboy capitalism is stable. Also keep Americans sold on The Big Lie's flip side, the number two tune: "We are the richest and most blessed people on earth because of capitalism (but currently going through a rough patch). Proof is offered: "Step right up and see for yourselves! Just look at the spectacular services and goods that bury us in wonderment! Now go buy a PT Cruiser."

Decades ago, the spectacle of commodity capitalism, the sheer variety of possible stuff to own, ways to be, possible appearances of being, came to constitute a commodity in itself -- enchantment as a product, product as enchantment. Materialistic enchantment as commodity was so powerful in scale and scope, and so thorough in mind saturation that it came to colonize our consciousness in what Guy Debord aptly deemed "the society of the spectacle."

No ordinary person could ever have withstood such a colonization of human consciousness as the American people have seen. Consciousness being simply awareness, there was no surviving the onslaught. The tsunami of false possibilities and pseudo choices constituted entire constellations in the psyche, of goods, and images of goods large and small: hair dryers, iPods, anti-bacterial wipes, cable television, ammunition, plastic siding, gourmet foods, this HP notebook computer in my lap, the Prius and the Porsche, even words such as Google, Microsoft, China Mobile, Vodafone, Marlboro... **They all have psychological and social meaning in our commoditized consciousness**, that battlefield where each commodity vies for preeminence with every other commodity in the shifting exposition of stuff we are permitted to labor to pay for.

It can now be honestly stated that mere goods and services express the citizenry and the American culture in its entirety. **Citizenship in a consumer society is consumership.** Consumer culture consumes all rival cultures, replacing them with "pop culture," which is simply deeming the marketplace as culture. Hip Hop is a good example. So is the modern cinema, and all of the music and book publishing industry. Corporate industry and its products are not culture, despite all the new definitions of culture bourgeois academia and the marketplace come up with on behalf of the corporations that fund both of them.

Your iPod shall set you free!

Freedom and personal identity exists as freedom to choose identity from among the commodities, and particularly the entertainments, offered. The Mac person as opposed to the Windows person. The Mariah Carey or Rihanna Fenty fan as opposed to the Eric Clapton fan. Each is convinced he or she is different because of their chosen commodity. Yet at the root of this, they all purchased a computer or a CD from a faceless corporation grounded in the toxic wastelands and sweatshops of Asia and elsewhere. Those who, in a fit of defiance, choose Indy music choose a product originating in and listened to through digital equipment produced in the bowels of monolithic corporate commodities generators.

We may gaze at the hologram and dream of living larger, or conversely, living the uncorrupted "simple life" on that little organic farm in Vermont. In the end though, the lucky ones among us, all those people out there in anonymous Terra Condominia, out there in the sprawling suburban nether land, must be content with a flat screen television. Watching those commercials for the Super Bowl commercials, delivered to us breathlessly as "news," The News is the liturgy of the commodity economy -- whose scope and omniscience no man can grasp, but only consume as manna. **We are feasters at the table of goods and services, most of which are not only unnecessary, distractive and mind killing, but earth destroying in both their manufacture and their use.** This matters not a bit in an illusionary world of appearances. The commodity economy in its bounty, also offers us a chance to "buy green." To text a link to the Earth First website.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:32 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Joe Bageant: The Corporate State 2

It ain't fascism, it's practicality

If our national and individual minds have been colonized, occupied, then we necessarily live in an occupied nation. We have arrived at the destination where the trajectory of material consumer capitalism was always headed, toward an occupied (and preoccupied) totalitarian society. Rational, practical, productive and autonomous.

Cliché as the word is, you would have to call it overshoot. In judging the arc and trajectory of that technical rationality Western society so prides itself upon, we reduced the Enlightenment, the original launching pad of reason, to the merely practical, material and economic. The practical is scripture now. Without it material production and profit, the only concerns of capitalism, do not exist. All power rests in the practical.

What is most practical is hierarchy and specialization. Technical specialization -- within engineering specialization -- within scientific specialization. All contained within the economic specializations of the state sanctioned economy and ideology governing the conditions of our daily existence. By definition, this is totalitarian.

Totalitarianism calls ideology philosophy. It salutes itself in every medium and every product, material, legal, political. And we salute it in return through meaningless work and consumption.

In all likelihood, you the reader are younger than I. Possibly less cynical and surely less tired. You may believe yet that violent overthrow of such a monstrous system is still possible.

A year or so ago, I still believed that. Events in the world and at home have since convinced me otherwise. **Maybe the system could have even been changed from within forty years ago.** If it could have been and was not, then that most certainly is the greatest failure of my generation. **The Sixties were a critical point at which important choices were offered us as a people. At the time, a minority realized revolution was still possible and warranted. Violent revolution, if necessary. But as a generation, we were no better at acting in unselfish concert than yours.**

As Chris Hedges recently pointed out, violence today only assures the survival of the most violent, criminals of one sort or another, petty or international. Beyond that, **the state now has the technological capability to inflict the most violence in every case, and therefore win.** Realistic thinkers say aloud that what is so far advanced can no longer be stopped or turned around by revolution, violent or otherwise. Most other thinkers on the subject secretly suspect the same.

Mr. Popularity and the marmot

The rest of the country is oblivious, lost in the anxious clamor for an economic "recovery." **The voice of the state defines recovery for them as a return to former levels of the unsustainable superheated capitalism, and increased indebtedness of the populace.** "Oh when, oh when will the bankers loosen the credit markets so we can again buy things?" As if their debt slavery were a great gift! The bankers simply do not issue more credit to people they know are dead broke -- because they broke 'em, they will continue to make more money by letting the people wail, and taking the people's money directly from the state as bailouts. Stretched out over the coming years, we will see more of them. It should give us chills.

President Obama at some point asked himself if bailouts for those who caused the collapse will truly result in an end to the "current crisis" (a term calculated to make our slow inevitable collapse look temporary). How does getting the masses to accept more debt add up to anything but worse crisis later? Obama is a smart fellow, smarter than George Bush, which is what got him elected, right? (Of course after Bush a marmot could have run on the "smarter than Bush" ticket and looked good). So he must have asked that. And like any highly educated (indoctrinated) American politician who has interiorized the capitalist system -- **you do not become a presidential candidate without interiorizing capitalism lock stock and barrel** -- his first reflex was: "The system must be saved at all costs!" Members of Congress, whose butts arrived in the Washington through the same processes as Obama's, agreed. That cost us all plenty.

Obama is himself a commodity, the most telegenic political commodity since Kennedy. One that suits American style capitalism best this particular historical political moment. He is a useful illusion, the same as George W. Bush was a useful illusion. What is the difference between George Bush managing the country through media performances and Obama doing the same? Both are telegenic, which is everything today, but in different ways. One was stupid but radiated virility and manly appearance; the other is attractive for his intelligence and so smart he's stupid. Both lives are absorbed in "appearing to be" in the Great American Hologram of appearances. We are a nation following the appearance of national leadership.

It is cold comfort that we are not alone in this ultimate folly. **Globally, it is estimated that the economic crisis has seen at least \$50 trillion in financial assets -- approximately equal to the value of the entire global GDP -- wiped out.** Given the bullshit "science" that is economics, and that economists serve the purposes of the money masters of their particular age, and that money is always in motion, it is very doubtful that anyone really knows the global GDP. But the illusion that someone does is necessary in preserving and controlling perceptions of the present system. Otherwise the concept of money itself would have to be reexamined and changed to fit the world reality. **Better to proclaim a "crisis" and scare the shit out of the peasantry, than give them an opportunity to question the new feudalism of credit cards, mortgages, car loans, educational loans and general debt slavery.** The word crisis scares people, flogs them into anxious submission, lest some fucking socialist come along and ask, Why don't you take charge of your own lives and destiny? Do you really need these people?

The "crisis" was set in motion by institutions lending each other non-existent money none of them can pay back. Consequently, the masses are once again expected to produce enough material value in the world to make the funny money real, and shore up the system one more time. To "raise the money" to do this will require generations of future productivity shoveled into the furnace of corporate capitalism's banking machinery. There was nothing left to steal, so extorting the future was the only option left. Assuming the skimmers and the scammers manage to extract enough public monies to pump up corporations one more time, there will be another and bigger disaster not far down the road. We don't need the Oracle of Delphi to predict this. Capitalism is unstable as hell, like an unbalanced dreidel that keeps tilting ever more wildly off center until it falls over or eventually hits the wall. We can now see the wall from here: Massive ecological collapse and species extinction. "Economic downturn," even "crisis," does not quite describe that approaching wall. All of America hopes we will miss that wall at least one more time.

Americans are hope fiends. We always see hope somewhere down every road, chiefly because **honestly looking at the present situation would destroy just about everything we hold as reality.** Personally, as I often state and catch readership hell for, I do not like hope. When Obama ran it up the flagpole for us to salute, and so many saluted, my blood chilled. Made me feel that we were all in deeper shit than I had supposed (Nevertheless, I reluctantly voted for Obama. At the time it seemed It was either Obama, or continuing war, debt, and diminishing civil liberties. Ha!) Hope is magic thinking, believing that somehow, some larger unknown force is in motion to set things right.

The world is what it is, and its injustices are set right by peoples and nations morally intact enough to challenge its malevolent forces.

Hope is political pabulum for an infantilized nation.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:19 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Joe Bageant: The Corporate State 3

A shot at economic justice (gets you shot at)

On those rare occasions when I do see nations take concrete steps toward liberation, the heart is cheered at having at least some reason for reality based optimism. After more than a century of taking it up the shorts from autonomous capitalism, Latin America is moving toward alternatives to the free trade cowboy capitalism that has so long raped them. ... (discussion of ALBA and new regional currency SUCRE follows)

Born with the disease?

It would be nice if we could neatly lay all the blame on **the nasty monolith of autonomous capitalism as an outside malignant force** of its own. A **systemic pathogen** that somehow infected a decent and unsuspecting America. Looks like I just did, in fact.

Nevertheless, America and its national character were founded on the purest greed. From the beginning the people who came here wanted more of the material world. Sure, there were some religious dissenters (of which too much has been made for propaganda purposes). But the English and Dutch stock companies that established the first colonies came looking for profits. And the common people who came here were looking for "a better life," which to them was, above all else, becoming as wealthy as possible. America was its own self-selecting process.

Read Tocqueville's description of earlier Americans' relentless buying and selling fever. Everything and everyone was always up for sale from the start. Read about the greed and stinginess of the "refugees from religious persecution," such as slave owning Quakers, Presbyterians and Methodists. Read about how the founding fathers ripped off the Revolutionary War veterans for the IOU script they so patiently held for many years in payment for fighting, buying it up for pennies on the dollar, then passing legislation to pay up on the script. Or how not only the business class, but also the supposedly bucolic and wise heartland American farmers cheered as the government troops shot down hungry striking miners, burned out their families, lest they disturb the order of the Republic of commerce.

There were the exploited working masses then, just as there are now. And there was always the petty bourgeoisie, more than happy to do the dirty work of the most elite owning class, in hopes of currying its favor. Always happy to sanction the "wet jobs" on the Italian, Polish, Chinese and Irish immigrant laborer. **You could then, and you can now, depend on the true middle class, that 15% or so, capitalism's commissars, to crush the working class. They will do anything to remain in a more privileged zone of consumption, the boundaries of which are maintained by agreement of state authorities.** From their petty perches, they have deemed themselves "the middle class." In reality they are the mitigating class, the petty anointed whose job it is to obscure class awareness in America.

Shut up and let the green stuff talk

An awareness of class makes clear who is fucking whom. That's why American capitalism's official line is that we area "classless society." Denying the existence of class, deeming all Americans (excepting a few too-obvious-to-be denied cases, such as inner city blacks and the poorest of immigrants), "middle class" was one of American capitalism's great strokes of genius. It blurred the line between workers and capitalism's middle class commissariat -- the petty business, mid-management, teaching and owning class managing the rest of us for the elites.

And just in case that line was not blurred enough, the bourgeoisie, particularly the academic institutions, successfully wrote the labor and the working masses out of American political history as taught in the public schools. We workers now have no continuous organic chain of memory and experience from which to draw.

The owning/business class has always been institutionalized as the state and the custodians of the entire American social and political process. History as we learn it in school is the owning class' version. Despite what we were taught, America's Constitution is mainly a property rights document, and those with the most property are naturally ascendant at all times in this country. Generation after generation of this ascent was bound to lead to what we see now. The ultimate triumph of property and money. A Supreme Court that, without the slightest hesitation, declares that money is speech and as such, will do most of the talking from here on out. The autonomous economy now has a tongue.

We can well imagine its future admonishments, its smug edicts, proclamations of terror afoot, more need for surveillance camera eyes, oil pipelines for its circulatory system. The autonomous economy not only has the bullhorn of the national media. It has a voice capable of drowning out what little of the people's voice remained, replacing our small national dialogue with soulless monologue. The bourgeoisie will listen closely though, for opportunity, a buck to be made in Kevlar, or perhaps the next new antidepressant for a demoralized, passive and discouraged republic. ...

Joe Bageant [home page](#)
Information Clearing House [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:05 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

[Christian Theory Of Just War 1](#)

America and the Christian Theory of Just War

by John J. Dwyer [article link](#)

February 20, 2007 LewRockwell

I. INTRODUCTION

... For my good friends, I must tell you that **there is an impostor among us in this day**. It presents itself as a lovely and inspiring and even holy thing, but it is actually a pretender, an idol, a damnable heresy. **It seeks to swell our hearts with pride and sentiment and certitude, but in the end it demands the right to anything of meaning we possess in this world** – our property, our lives, the lives of our children, our faithfulness to the teachings of the gentle and humble Savior who is the Redeemer of our souls and the Captain of our salvation.

This impostor has distorted our perspectives on world affairs, our own country, and our history. It has twisted American Christians' understanding of our God and the Holy Scriptures He gave us. It has silenced our pulpits regarding that about which they should be aflame with righteous outrage and prophetic utterances, and it has made a lie before the nations of the world of the professions of our sacred rules of law and what George Washington, the Father of our country, called, "our blessed religion."

This impostor, this new god of Moloch, has demanded the deaths, mutilations, and moral corruptions, the mental and emotional devastation, of legions of our young, through multiple generations. Even as we meet here today, it multiplies the enemies of our nation and faith, and crafts a dark and uncertain future for our children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

This impostor, this detestable fraud and rapist and murderer, is American nationalism. It births its crimes in a flag, baptizes them with the anthems of bands, and seals them with 21-gun salutes and the rantings of wealthy demagogues who have come no closer to a battlefield than a television camera or studio microphone.

This impostor is not patriotism, though it would pervert that too. The patriot says, "I love my country," works for its good, and defends it if necessary – against enemies within and without. **He strives and prays not primarily that God will bless his country, but that his country will bless God.** The nationalist, meanwhile, says, "My country is better than yours." "My country is the greatest there has ever been." "The greatest nation on God's green earth." "They hate my country because it is so good."

Of all citizens, the Christian should be the most faithful patriot. He should bloom where he is planted, and be a blessing to the country where God has placed him, whether America or New Zealand or Sudan. **Yet we in America, especially we in the Church of Jesus Christ, have become the most faithful nationalists.** If you do not believe me, talk to Bible-believing Christians from other countries. They wept and prayed for us after 9/11, then stood dumbstruck, with gathering incredulity, as they witnessed what has apparently become our true national character, unfold bloodily, mercilessly, recklessly, on the world stage in the years since.

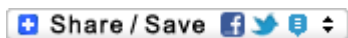
But be not deceived, my friends, **this impostor, and others that claim the place in our individual and national life that should be filled only by Almighty God, were working their will through our actions long before 9/11. In fact, they were in no small way helping to craft 9/11, and other calamities large and small, before and after.**

I believe we must confront our idolatrous reverence for American nationalism – for United States nationalism – to escape leaving those who follow us to a multi-generational lot constructed, whether we wish to admit it or not, largely of our own making. And we must face the consequences of our assumptions and attitudes and in order to understand first that they truly exist within us, and second that they actually result in the actions that are the history we shall create and leave those who come after us.

Today I shall discuss some sad and sorrowful events. But these are not my primary message. They are a firebell in the night that something is wrong in this country, and has been, perhaps for a very long time. History – "His Story" as I tell my students, the story of God calling out a set-apart people for Himself from every tribe and tongue, through every generation – can teach us much. And **there is no missing the repeated pattern of powerful nations like ours crumbling from within and without** after engaging in the sorts of actions I shall discuss in the next few minutes.

But though this portion of the talk may seem to concern bullets and casualties and crimes of violence, these are only among the many symptoms of the true problem. "Power tends to corrupt," said the devout Catholic Christian Englishman whom we know as Lord Acton – and "absolute power tends to corrupt absolutely." John Adams said that "our constitution is wholly inadequate for the governing of any but a moral and religious people." **As sinful human beings, we are all prone to blindness, shortsightedness, arrogance, and greed. Ceaseless corporate yielding to such pursuits will bring ruin upon a nation. But humility, patience, and suffering faithfulness can bring blessing.**

I believe we still have a chance as a nation to count for good for the long haul. Regardless of our national destiny, **we have the opportunity as the Church to shine a beacon of light and hope to every nation.** Lest we come too close to despairing today, we shall remember the wisdom given to us as precious treasure by faithful, suffering servants of God in generations past.



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:53 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Christian Theory Of Just War 2

II. OUR HISTORY ... (excellent historical review follows in article)

... after many years of studying and teaching history, and not from a liberal or politically correct diet of source, I have come to fear that for all our affluence and prosperity and power and even Christianity, we Americans are in a bad way. **Our history washes over us like a sea of blood.** We now view our supposed enemies as so many digital figures on a computer screen. We urge our children to share and play and don't hit, and yet our national identity is holding a rifle in one hand and a Bible in the other. (And by the way, I will always support – with Bible and rifle if necessary – our Biblical and Constitutional right to carry both.) We tell our children to find peaceful solutions even as we continue to bomb cities full of women, children, old folks, and babies. Old and young, black and white and brown, we make very good fighters and very good haters. ...

III. JUST WAR

Where to turn but for a remedy to Him who is not a respecter of persons – or nations. To Him who opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. To Him who delights not in the strength of the horse or chariot, but takes pleasure in those who fear Him. In the fifth of Matthew we read of the Beatitudes – the "be happy-tudes" – from Jesus's Sermon on the Mount.

"And seeing the multitudes, (Jesus) went up into a mountain: and when he was set, His disciples came unto Him: And He opened His mouth, and taught them, saying,
'Blessed are the poor in spirit: For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

Some Bible commentators attempt to dismiss any temporal applications of this famed passage and suggest Jesus's intentions regarded strictly spiritual matters, as if the two are not part and parcel of one another. Many others just sort of scoot past the issue. Some, however, unpack, in the case of the "peacemakers" of Matthew 5:9, the implications for the believer in relations with others that are not limited strictly to evangelism.

The splendid Reformed theologian William Hendriksen, for instance, while declaring that the gospel of peace is the preaching of Christ Crucified, wrote:

"'Blessed are the peace-makers, for they shall be called sons of God.' **A blessing is here pronounced on all who, having themselves received reconciliation with God through the cross, now strive by their message and their conduct to be instrumental in imparting this same gift to others.** By word and example such peace-makers, who love God, one another, and even their enemies, promote peace also among men. . . . True peace-makers are all those whose Leader is the God of peace, who aspire after peace with all men, proclaim the gospel of peace, and pattern their lives after the Prince of Peace." ... (excellent review follows in article)

... So what are the key tenets of the theory of Just War? Well, many have been put forward in many different forms through the centuries. However, thanks to the efforts of the aforementioned men and many others (refer again to article), including some contemporary men such as conservative evangelical Presbyterian minister and economist Ron McKenzie of Christchurch, New Zealand, we can arrive at a consensus catalog of guidelines by which to estimate a war or a proposed war.

First, a Just War must be waged by a legitimate government authority. That is, not by private citizens, pirates, or usurpers. Also, its cause must be justifiable self-defense – as opposed to seeking the territory or property of others or furthering one's own economic, social or political interests – and its intent to restore a just peace, fair to all. And it must have a reasonable expectation of success in accomplishing that goal.

A Just War must only be fought as a last resort, when every conceivable alternative has been exhausted. Its use of force must be proportionate in response to the wrongs committed. For example, burning every home within a five-mile radius of a partisan ranger ambush of uniformed regular soldiers would not be a proportionate response. Or bombing those homes from 15,000 feet in the air when they contain no soldiers.

Other tenets of Just War with solid Biblical basis include not having a large standing army (Deuteronomy 17:16, 1 Kings 10:26-29, Isaiah 31:1) and not possessing offensive weapons (Deuteronomy 17:16), Just War does not allow for the attacking and damaging of the land that is God's creation (Deuteronomy 20:19), for "the tree of the field is man's life," and "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." This item alone precludes the use of nuclear weapons, which by nature harm both the land and non-combatants. And, the defensive military alliances so common in recent generations – and so loathsome to America's Founding Fathers – are decried in Isaiah 31:1–3 and elsewhere.

Rev. McKenzie, the New Zealand minister, further illumines the Just War philosophy when he writes how "God determines the appointed times of the nations and the timing of their rule. (Acts 17:26). No nation has the authority to invade another nation to change its government (even if it is evil). A nation cannot even be invaded to establish democracy. "Democracy,"

McKenzie continues, "must come from the hearts of the people, it cannot be enforced from the outside." Most attempts by great powers to establish 'better' government by force in other nations have failed, because the spiritual forces that control the nation have not been defeated (Daniel 10:13)."

And finally, **non-combatants must be preserved from harm. That is, "collateral damage" is not allowed for, nor acceptable, however "regrettably."** The first Geneva Convention on War in 1863, and others since, have minced no words: attacking defenseless cities and towns, as well as plundering and wantonly destroying civilian property, are war crimes, performed by war criminals.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:46 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Christian Theory Of Just War 3

IV. CONCLUSION

May Christians remember that **a crucified Jesus Christ was God's remedy for the evil powers that animate wicked men and nations.** Let us purpose to fast, pray for and serve lands like Iraq – and Iran – caught in the grip of such forces. Let us commit to go to those lands and, if necessary, lay down our lives while armed not with an M-16 but with John 3:16.

I tell my students that we discuss such sorrowful events not because we hate America or we are nihilists without hope. To the contrary, it is because we believe in a sovereign, all-powerful, all-good God – Creator of the universe, Redeemer of us His elect company, and Sustainer of our weak needy souls – and we want to better know how we may please Him, and what are the obstacles and temptations to our doing so.

It is the truest patriot who loves his country enough to call her to task when she is in the wrong. Let the brave soldier who wears the uniform descended from Washington and those who froze at Valley Forge; from those who charged – and stood – at Cemetery Ridge; from those who scaled the cliffs at Pointe du Hoc and those who drove their torpedo planes into the teeth of the Japanese carrier force at Midway – **let that soldier refuse the order which calls him to war on the innocents. For such an order is an immoral order and should not be obeyed by any American soldier.**

And let the Christian clothed in the white robes of righteousness and descended from the Lord of eternity declare that **attacks on innocent women and children are a blot on history and on the nation who commits such atrocities.** Ultimately it is our humanity that is the collateral damage, we Americans, especially we American Christians – if we remain silent. ...

Christianity and Avatar

by John J. Dwyer [article link](#)

February 24, 2010 LewRockwell

... I support discussions of Avatar that enfold Cameron's "religion" and its flaws and dangers. That being said, recent attacks by professing believers – some of them Christians working in or around the motion picture industry – accusing the film of being "Anti-America, Anti-Military" announce the speakers' own cultural and nationalistic idolatry, if not their ignorance of the gospel itself. Of course, if a Christian chooses Fox News, Sean Hannity, Ann Coulter books, and National Review magazine as their primary news sources, they'll be surprised to learn that **our country's "military-industrial complex" – to use the famous words of that war hero and Republican President Dwight Eisenhower – has for generations acted as Cameron depicts it in Avatar.**

Conservatives who deny the undeniable truth of our (often "well-intentioned") violent, rapacious, money- and power-fueled imperialistic behavior all over the globe are – well, they need some good teaching of the true "Christian history" sort. We should be thankful Cameron did not make Stephen Lang's villainous character in Avatar a Bible-spouting fundamentalist, as so many of our "noble warriors" actually are. (I was particularly struck by the recent story of a leading American arms manufacturer engraving Bible verses inside the barrels of the guns it made to kill people with.)

Christians moan and groan over the Church's ineffectual impact on the world in general and our country in particular. Christians who make (tax-deductible) money off other Christians moan the loudest about it. But why should a holy God honor the efforts of fools? (The biblical sense of a fool is one who refuses to learn.) Those spouting "Anti-America, Anti-Military" epithets about Avatar – and other recent films that criticized our tragic attack on Iraq – behave as stubborn, stiff-necked fools, and place themselves in the perilous role of opposing the Christian gospel of peace, humility, gentleness, purity, sacrifice, suffering, repentance, reconciliation, and redemption. So far as they labor in that direction, they act as enemies of Jesus – not because they criticize non-Christian films, but because of the unbiblical views they hold that animate this portion of their criticism.

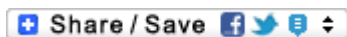
Let us criticize those aspects of James Cameron's work – and anyone else's – that fall short of Scriptural precepts. And let us learn from such work when it casts light on our own blindness. **We Christians who elect and re-elect warmongering politicians; who sacrifice our sons to serve as hired killers for Caesar; who confuse and terrify a watching world of unbelievers as we baptize our brutal military colossus with Christian symbols, imagery, song, and emotion; who cow our own pulpits into silence when they should be aflame with holy zeal and jealousy for God over such wicked idolatry – we are the villains of Avatar.**

Christians should be men and women enough to own up to our shortcomings and assess where we need work to become more conformed to the image of Christ (Isn't that what we teach our children and grandchildren?), even when God chooses to use His enemies and ours to teach us some of those lessons. After all, He was no friend of the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, or Romans, as is evidenced by "Where are they now?" But He used them all in His sovereign, Providential plan for sanctifying His people.

As I wrote seven years – and a couple of wars – ago, it is past time for the followers of Jesus Christ to put down our M-16s and to go forth into all the world with John 3:16 as soldiers of the cross and not Caesar.

John J. Dwyer serves as Adjunct Professor of History at Southern Nazarene University and Oklahoma City Community College. He is former chairman of history at Coram Deo Academy near Dallas, Texas. He is author of the new historical narrative *The War Between the States: America's Uncivil War*. His website includes a five-minute preview video about the book. He is also the author of the historical novels *Stonewall* and *Robert E. Lee*, and the former editor and publisher of *The Dallas/Fort Worth Heritage* newspaper.

LewRockwell [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:33 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Christian Theory Of Just War 4

MM Book 1 Chapter 3-19

WAR *IS* TERRORISM, a “war on terrorism” is a contradiction, and belies our spiritual illness: fighting terror with terror reduces man-kind to beasts without conscience, lashing out in the/our darkness !! – war is a taking, it cannot “give” peace [as result], especially if sought “as lie” by a weaponizing of excuse or opportunity: THOSE WHO TAKE, WAR !! – the absence of external conflict is NOT evidence of peace; engendered hatred remains, held within: OUR GOD(-ing) IS PEACE, there is NO other definition !! – war in the service of privilege and claim; asking God to guard the troops while conducting war [a crime *against* God] is to ask amiss; **GOD WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN, OR SUPPORT, OUR SINS [decide in the cause of Mammon] !!** – those who conduct war [and those complicit] will be taken in war !! — the Word of God is NOT a “Sword of Conquest” to be wielded in the selfish hands of mankind; God’s “conquest” is a conquest of love NOT war and death !! – [Isa 1:4-5 "sinful nation ... the *whole* head is sick ..."] !! — every war, every conflict is about us, no matter where it is, or whom is involved: HUMAN FAMILY !! – the *excuse* of the other “forcing our hand” into striking, violence/war, criminal acts is exactly that, an excuse; THERE IS *NO* EXCUSE FOR EVIL !! – our awareness of complicity demands our repentance; our “false” family is sacrificing its members: ** FRATRICIDE ** [the crime of "murdering" a brother] and DEICIDE [putting Christ to death; His Way of Love] !! — the systemic

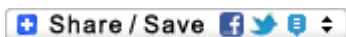
APOTHEOSIS [n. of God; deification; consecration]: the Bush/Obama Admin., National Interest, etc., demanding sacrifice; AMERICA USED AS IDOL, "GOD BLESS AMERICA" !! – **"America" (the people, their hopes and dreams) used as "divine sanction" by the Nation-State (US Inc.) to enslave the very same !! – America ceased in "being" many decades ago, usurped and misrepresented by the "State".**

MM Book 1 Chapter 3-20

WAR IS *NOT* MORALLY JUST; lack of morality "builds" war – traditional Christian "Just War Theory", "just cause" determinations, sense of "imminent threat", "social [corporate] obligations", etc., all *excuse* mass slaughter in the cause of group selfishness – WAR IS BUILT, DEVELOPED – the US/UK seen as the "messianic" nation(s), in God's service [generally held public view]; **WAR IS *NOT* AN AGENCY OF GOD, MAN DOES *NOT* HAVE JUST AUTHORITY TO WAR !!** – God is NOT (self)propaganda, GOD IS TRUTH; developed sin, imposed evil must be overcome by good !! – AGAPE TRUTH, PURE MOTIVE vs. self-serving propaganda of any variant; the LIE told, claimed for benefit/deception; even God's Word taken/used for LIES !! – using Christ [in vain (in self)], and "being and doing" Christ are NOT the same !! — WAR IS BIG BUSINESS [business is war; cause/effect; resultant] !! — OUR COLLECTIVE SINS/EVIL MUST BE LAID BARE, REALIZED AND REPENTED OF, WE MUST (RE)TURN TO GOD !! — State imposed legality is NOT God's legality !! — war does NOT ennoble a generation, it does NOT give it meaning; violence is NOT a means of communication; WAR IS NOT ENDURING, ONLY LOVE IS ENDURING !! – war "media" is complicit in the myth making, the excuses for dehumanization: human beings turned into objects – the CARNAL LUST OF/FOR WAR vs. the *ugly* truth about ourselves: WAR IS ORGANIZED DEATH !! – WAR DOES NOT UNIFY, IT DOES NOT GIVE US VALUES vs. State exaltation, heroic idolation – WAR *PERVERTS* SOCIETY AND INDIVIDUALS: PATRIOTISM IS SELF-GLORIFICATION, IT IS PREJUDICE vs. THE OTHER – WAR IS *NOT* SELF-PRESERVATION, IT IS SUICIDE !! – VIOLENCE BEGETS VIOLENCE UNTIL SOMEONE SAYS ENOUGH, STOP !! – **the COURAGE of FORGIVENESS, a GOD-LEVEL AWARENESS is evidenced when the "strongest" surrenders to PEACE !!**

MM Book 1 Chapter 3 [web page](#) (widescreen)

MM Book 1 [blog home](#)



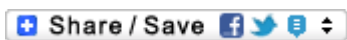
Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:26 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

[The Hidden Enemy Within: Confront The Evil 1](#)

The hidden enemy within; losing control of our soul; evil, the power that keeps us from what we want to be; found in ourselves and surrounds us [intention and will within]; dark expressions, forces of pain expressed in human beings - KNOW THYSELF !! - we must open our eyes and ears to the invisibility; we must turn on the lights [knowledge and self-understanding] - evil likes us to fear it [cohesive sentience; it has its own purpose] - we all possess faculties that have a given direction in certain circumstances [ie., pulled down into anger, hate; something in us draws us down, serving a purpose that is unknown to most human beings [maybe a blind mechanical response or a force, a sentience, SATAN] - we are spiritually deaf, dumb and blind; **we have every influence ever created in us; heaven and hell, light and darkness meet in the human soul; these forces are given life by our choices, our decisions; our *relationship* with these forces determine who we are;** self is relationship, we must be awake to what we are in relationship with !! - our mindset, conditioning, projection [movement of thought]; we cannot fix ourselves [psychology] with the very thing which is broken !! - we are in conflict, a divided being, a rift runs through the core of ourselves; "blame away", "explain away", are not answers - we are destroying our planet and ourselves in spite of all the prayerfulness [people resisting the evil]; we must understand NOT resist; the resisting actually increases the evil; we are fighting with shadows; we are fighting forces that are empowered by our *not* understanding their nature [ref: MM Book 1 Chapter 1-13 [web page](#) (widescreen) or [blog](#)] - we must learn to see into ourselves, we must discern spiritually - there is no such thing as "blind" anger, there is something in us that is angry [relative to our own conditioning; the dark state lives within us]; sympathetic vibration.

Darkness wins because we do not know how it operates; we are unaware that our *unconsciousness* is responsible; the negative state guides us [we remain asleep to its actual nature and action, its dictates] - THE ONLY POWER EVIL HAS IS IN DECEIVING US !! [FORGIVE THEM FATHER, FOR THEY *KNOW NOT* WHAT THEY DO] -- we define ourselves by our problems; our current sense of self [ie., the COG] is rooted in a nature that causes us to repeat the evil in order for us to remain within our false definitions !! - WE MUST TRANSCEND OURSELVES; WE MUST BE WHAT GOD WANTS US TO BE !! - there are parts of us that can only do one thing [a blind mechanical activity of darkness; suggestions serving their blind mechanical need] to restrict, to limit, to draw down - **hatred is a self-imposed restriction; love is expansive, opening; these two consciousnesses are in us [we are sitting between two worlds of darkness and light; we have to choose - answering evil with evil is forwarding evil unto the whole human race [BUILDING HOLOCAUST] !!** - EACH SOUL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS OWN ACTIONS !! - to be human is to have crises; we must examine ourselves when things are at their darkest [when we are torn, confused; reaching]; this darkness can be the ground of the new understanding that we see ourselves in [these dark "gifts" come to us bearing choice; the adversarial is actually emissarial], an opportunity presented, and we are responsible for our choices - we do not have to be subjected to what we don't understand, instead we can understand what we are subjected to !! - the issue of justice is a private, individual affair [we must grow in this understanding; the world is on a downward path into war] - we will serve evil pursuits if we do not understand them, and our complicity with them !!



Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:04 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

The Hidden Enemy Within: Confront The Evil 2

There is a Hell (of our own creation), tormented feelings, regret - heaven and hell are born out of our fears, not knowing what is, the possibilities - "what may be" can never be the source of integral change within [just another safety blanket (ie., most religions)] - our lives do not change when we die [an object in motion continues in the direction of its motion; we must change ourselves, our direction]; all damage we do to ourselves can be changed by a love of the truth; the damage can be undone !! [GOD IS TRUTH AND LIFE; WE CANNOT CHANGE OURSELVES, BUT GOD'S LOVE CAN !!] - society's pace keeps us from stopping to think, we must take the time to be conscious of ourselves, of our needs [mindful of our helpful thoughts and our hurtful thoughts]; changing our relationship with our inner world; we do not have to live with the pain !! - **the only power the darkness has over us [deception] is in the absence of the light [fear is real in the dark];** illumination vs. domination; dark spiritual forces, conditions, cannot live within the light [GOD IS LIGHT] - fear was never intended to be a form for us; our thought-forms make it real [when we revisit a negative state, we revitalize what we want to be free of]; we must be aware of the evil consciousness, we must dismiss it, reject it [BY GOD'S PRESENCE; HEALING] - keeping in balance; our choice; the dark, the negative seemingly necessary; there is danger here, new understanding [recognition] precipitated by the darkness [WE MUST COME OUT OF THE SIN]; an ongoing relationship of primordial forces existent [THE FEAR (reverence) OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM, A GOOD UNDERSTANDING HAVE ALL THEY WHO OBEY GOD'S COMMANDMENTS (the 10C: walking in the character of God); KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY IS TO DEPART FROM EVIL - EVIL IS *NOT* ESSENTIAL FOR NEW UNDERSTANDING; EVIL (application) IS THE *LACK* OF UNDERSTANDING !!].

The issue of control, the strength of evil; we are in a cage as a result of our limited understanding; powerlessness itself looks for power and control, and by doing so falls victim to the very thing it is seeking power and control over !! - we are evidence of a dualistic self; we express dualism; dualism is not necessarily real, but reality exists in levels - the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was to give the knowledge of the gods [the complexities, the nuances of things; not just knowing the simple good]; free will is [considered today] the result of the choice between good and evil; thus [the first sin] is deemed a gift [ATTRIBUTING GOD'S FREE WILL, FREE MORAL AGENCY, TO SIN, AS SATAN'S GIFT - GOOD AND EVIL IS NOT KNOWLEDGE AS SUCH, BUT THE NATURE OF THE SPIRITUAL APPLICATION, THE WISDOM, THE RELATIONSHIP (knowledge is revealed, taught, discovered)] -- we are beings of choice, to determine for ourselves [our character]; darkness and evil are horrible, but we grow from them; their potential makes us think !! - we see the world through the eyes of our understanding of the conditions existent; evil seems to have the upper hand because humans have gone to sleep; true and false are becoming unknown; we are being misled - the goodness within us must be recognized and fought for [GOD PROVIDES THE ALTERNATIVE] !! - learning and growing; religion seeks to codify experience, which is impossible; we must continue in the life God gives us NOT continue in the life we create for

ourselves; **we must let go of the self with its definitions, then we will see God's definitions !!** -- is righteous anger evil, NO !! - evil is unrighteousness; the cause and effect are different - do the inner evils of our own mind relinquish our choice ?? -- [The Hidden Enemy Within: Confront The Evil 1 and 2 based on multiple sources, including author Guy Finley, on the nature of evil (author Finley denies the existence of Satan)]

Cross-post from Mammon or Messiah meta [blog link](#)
Guy Finley [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:56 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

David DeGraw: Overcoming the Divide and Conquer Strategy

Part V: **Overcoming the Divide and Conquer Strategy**

— The Economic Elite Vs. The People of the USA

By David DeGraw, AmpedStatus Report [article link](#)

Posted on Tuesday, February 23rd, 2010

This is the fifth-part of a six-part report.

[Parts 1-4 mentioned/excerpted previously; please refer to original article for the numerous links not included in excerpt]

I: Casualties of Economic Terrorism, Surveying the Damage [article link](#)

II: The Rise of the Economic Elite [article link](#)

III: Exposing Our Enemy - Meet the Economic Elite [article link](#)

IV: The Financial Coup d'Etat [article link](#)

V: Overcoming the Divide and Conquer Strategy [article link](#)

VI: How to Fight Back and Win: Common Ground Issues That Must Be Won

V: Overcoming the Divide and Conquer Strategy

“The conflicting propaganda of opposing parties is essentially what leads to political abstention. But this is not the abstention of the free spirit which asserts itself; it is the result of resignation, the external symptom of a series of inhibitions. Such a man has not decided to abstain; under diverse pressures, subjected to shocks and distortions, he can no longer (even if he wanted to) perform a political act. What is even more serious is that this inhibition not only is political, but also progressively takes over the whole of his being and leads to a general attitude of surrender.” — Jacques Ellul, "Propaganda: The Formation of Men's Attitudes"

The primary reason why the Economic Elite have gained such dominance is their commitment to psychological operations that divide-and-conquer the US public. They use their overwhelming influence over mainstream media outlets and political candidates in very clever ways to divide us.

It is known among political scientists that powerful forces always seek to gain control of pre-existing social and political institutions so they can usurp their powers. The Economic Elite gained control of both the Democratic and Republican political parties because they knew that hardworking Americans loyally followed these parties, and we believed these parties were looking out for our best interests. We have, for the most part, been lifelong Republicans or lifelong Democrats, but until we see that our favored party has been seized by power and greed addicted interests, we will all continue to lose. These are extremely hard truths to face, but until we face them, we will continue our decline.

With half the US population loyal to Democrats and the other half loyal to Republicans, gaining control of both these parties meant total control for them. The past decade is testament to their total control of both parties.

In manufactured public opinion, Obama represented a far left swing in US politics, and Bush represented a far right swing, and these two supposed polar opposites also had a Congress overwhelmingly run by members of their own party. Did we

get drastically different policies? In what matters most, in both cases, the results were the same: more money and power for the Economic Elite and the continued decline of the US middle class. This fact is now undeniable.

Yes, there are definite differences in their rhetoric and on some social issues, but this is the key to the psychological operations, to the divide-and-conquer strategy that they use so effectively.

To distract and divide us, they use rhetoric on social issues like religion, gay marriage, abortion, etc., all serious and significant issues that we bitterly disagree on, but in the overall picture, these issues are secondary to the larger, more fundamental political and economic issues that lead to our wealth being stolen from us, and ultimately, our lives being increasingly dominated by a small few.

Bush appealed to conservative Republicans and then ran up the deficit to record levels. Obama appealed to liberal Democrats, but increased war spending and support for Wall Street billionaires. In both cases, the candidates severely divided the US middle class, but in the policy decisions that mattered most, they both sided with the economic top one percent at the expense of hardworking Americans.

Just look at the last few election cycles. In 2006 and 2008 US citizens rose up in record-breaking numbers to kick out the Republicans in power, whom they felt had betrayed them. Now, with the Democrats in power, the consensus seems to be that in the 2010 mid-term elections we will vote for Republicans and kick out the Democrats who have failed to deliver on the much needed and promised changes.

Do you not see the ridiculous nature of this divide-and-conquer strategy? This is a vicious cycle that will continue to lead to our destruction.

Psychological Operations 101: Obama Vs. Fox News

For those of us who are strong enough to see beyond our propaganda-induced preconceptions and prejudices, the insidious nature of the Economic Elite's divide-and-conquer strategy is on full display in the feud between Obama and Fox News. About half of the country loves Obama and hates Fox News, and the other half loves Fox News but hates Obama. They both use very effective propaganda to seduce their followers. However, as hard as it is for people who love one of them to admit, they both serve the same masters. ...

... The most significant bias in the mainstream media is not the liberal or conservative views propagated to divide, distract, confuse and create apathy among the populace; the ultimate bias is in what is missing from the coverage. The investigative reporting on the most powerful forces within our society is left out of the discussion. ...

... The main bias is in favor of the thieves who stole our country and economy, and own the mainstream media companies. The omni-present mainstream media is the greatest weapon of oppression humanity has ever known. ...

... **The mainstream media creates what is known in mass psychology as the "spectrum of thinkable thought."** By constantly discussing and debating surface issues, they limit the range of debate. Having the Republican vs. Democrat paradigm leads us to never debating the underlying Economic Elite who control both of the parties, not to mention their ownership of the media platform on which this debate is taking shape. The more important underlying issues are never discussed, and therefore never enter public consciousness.

The censorship that is most prevalent today is the most dangerous form. Not the censorship of explicit words, sex, or violence, but the censorship of any thoughts outside of elite corporate ideology. Any debate that leads to critical thought on prevailing elite economic dominance is not allowed to enter into the mass media or mainstream public consciousness. ...

Amped Status [home page](#)

How Advertising Manipulates Our “Caveman” Brains

Why We are Susceptible to Manipulation

By Washington's Blog [article link](#) [article link](#)

February 23, 2010

Washington's Blog [blog home](#)

Information Clearing House [home page](#)

Is the United States a Failing State?

by Barry Weisberg [article link](#)

Global Research, February 23, 2010

Global Research [home page](#)

Basically, It's Over...

A parable about how one nation came to financial ruin.

by Charles Munger [article link](#) [article link](#)

02.23.10

SilverBear Cafe [home page](#)

Slate [home page](#)

The Daily Bell

Buffet's Partner (Charlie Munger) Says America Is Finished

by Staff Report [article link](#)

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

The Daily Bell [home page](#)

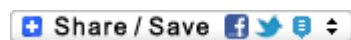
'Death of American Capitalism:'

The 10 final scenes (commentary on Charlie Munger column)

by Paul B. Farrell [article link](#)

February 23, 2010 MarketWatch

Information Clearing House [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:25 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monday, February 22, 2010

[Secular Prophets: Indicant 8](#)

Debt Dynamite Dominoes: The Coming Financial Catastrophe

Assessing the Illusion of Recovery

by Andrew Gavin Marshall [article link](#)

Global Research, February 22, 2010

Understanding the Nature of the Global Economic Crisis

The people have been lulled into a false sense of safety under the rouse of a perceived “economic recovery.” Unfortunately, what the majority of people think does not make it so, especially when the people making the key decisions think and act to the contrary. The sovereign debt crises that have been unfolding in the past couple years and more recently in Greece, are canaries in the coal mine for the rest of Western “civilization.” The crisis threatens to spread to Spain, Portugal and Ireland; like dominoes, one country after another will collapse into a debt and currency crisis, all the way to America.

In October 2008, the mainstream media and politicians of the Western world were warning of an impending depression if actions were not taken to quickly prevent this. The problem was that this crisis had been a long-time coming, and what's worse, is that the actions governments took did not address any of the core, systemic issues and problems with the global economy; they merely set out to save the banking industry from collapse. To do this, governments around the world implemented massive "stimulus" and "bailout" packages, plunging their countries deeper into debt to save the banks from themselves, while charging it to people of the world.

Then an uproar of stock market speculation followed, as money was pumped into the stocks, but not the real economy. **This recovery has been nothing but a complete and utter illusion, and within the next two years, the illusion will likely come to a complete collapse.**

The governments gave the banks a blank check, charged it to the public, and now it's time to pay; through drastic tax increases, social spending cuts, privatization of state industries and services, dismantling of any protective tariffs and trade regulations, and raising interest rates. The effect that this will have is to rapidly accelerate, both in the speed and volume, the unemployment rate, globally. The stock market would crash to record lows, where governments would be forced to freeze them altogether.

When the crisis is over, the middle classes of the western world will have been liquidated of their economic, political and social status. The global economy will have gone through the greatest consolidation of industry and banking in world history leading to a system in which only a few corporations and banks control the global economy and its resources; governments will have lost that right. The people of the western world will be treated by the financial oligarchs as they have treated the 'global South' and in particular, Africa; they will remove our social structures and foundations so that we become entirely subservient to their dominance over the economic and political structures of our society.

This is where we stand today, and is the road on which we travel.

The western world has been plundered into poverty, a process long underway, but with the unfolding of the crisis, will be rapidly accelerated. As our societies collapse in on themselves, the governments will protect the banks and multinationals. When the people go out into the streets, as they invariably do and will, the government will not come to their aid, but will come with police and military forces to crush the protests and oppress the people. **The social foundations will collapse with the economy, and the state will clamp down to prevent the people from constructing a new one.**

The road to recovery is far from here. When the crisis has come to an end, the world we know will have changed dramatically. No one ever grows up in the world they were born into; everything is always changing. Now is no exception. The only difference is, that we are about to go through the most rapid changes the world has seen thus far.

Assessing the Illusion of Recovery ...

Crying Wolf or Castigating Cassandra? ...

Empire and Economics ...

The Hegemony of Neoliberalism ...

Building a 'New' Economy ...

The 2007-2008 Financial Crisis ...

The Bailout ...

The Collapse of Iceland ...

Dubai Hit By Financial Storm ...

A Sovereign Debt Crisis Hits Greece ...

A Global Debt Crisis ...

China Begins to Dump US Treasuries ...

Is a Debt Crisis Coming to America? ...

Imperial Decline and the Rise of the New World Order ...

'New Capitalism' ...

Could Martial Law Come to America? ...

In Conclusion

The current crisis is not merely a failure of the US housing bubble, that is but a symptom of a much wider and far-reaching problem. **The nations of the world are mired in exorbitant debt loads, as the sovereign debt crisis spreads across the globe, entire economies will crumble, and currencies will collapse while the banks consolidate and grow.** The result will be to properly implement and construct the apparatus of a global government structure. A central facet of this is the formation of a global central bank and a global currency.

The people of the world have been lulled into a false sense of security and complacency, living under the illusion of an economic recovery. The fact remains: it is only an illusion, and eventually, it will come tumbling down. **The people have been conned into handing their governments over to the banks, and the banks have been looting and pillaging the treasuries and wealth of nations, and all the while, and making the people pay for it.**

There never was a story of more woe, than that of human kind, and their monied foe.

Truly, the people of the world do need a new world order, but not one determined and constructed by and for those who have created the past failed world orders. It must be a world order directed and determined by the people of the world, not the powerful. But to do this, **the people must take back the power.**

The way to achieving a stable economy is along the path of peace. War and economic crises play off of one another, and are systematically linked. Imperialism is the driver of this system, and behind it, the banking establishment as the financier.

Peace is the only way forward, in both political and economic realms. Peace is the pre-requisite for social sustainability and for a truly great civilization.

The people of the world must pursue and work for peace and justice on a global scale: economically, politically, socially, scientifically, artistically, and personally. It's asking a lot, but it's our only option. We need to have 'hope', a word often strewn around with little intent to the point where it has come to represent failed expectations. **We need hope in ourselves, in our ability to throw off the shackles that bind us and in our diversity and creativity construct a new world that will benefit all.**

No one knows what this world would look like, or how exactly to get there, least of all myself. What we do know is what it doesn't look like, and what road to steer clear of. The time has come to retake our rightful place as the commanders of our own lives. **It must be freedom for all, or freedom for none.** This is our world, and we have been given the gift of the human mind and critical thought, which no other living being can rightfully boast; what a shame it would be to waste it.

Andrew Gavin Marshall is a Research Associate with the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG). He is currently studying Political Economy and History at Simon Fraser University.

Global Research [Articles](#) by Andrew Gavin Marshall
Global Research [home page](#)

Civilization's Wrecking Crew

J. R. Nyquist [article link](#)

02.22.10

SilverBear Cafe [home page](#)

Rehearsals for a Civil War

by James Howard Kunstler [article link](#)

on February 22, 2010

James Howard Kunstler [blog home](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:36 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Sunday, February 21, 2010

David DeGraw: The Financial Coup d'Etat

Part IV: **The Financial Coup d'Etat — The Economic Elite Vs. The People of the United States of America**

By David DeGraw, AmpedStatus Report [article link](#)

Posted on Sunday, February 21st, 2010

I: Casualties of Economic Terrorism, Surveying the Damage [article link](#)

II: The Rise of the Economic Elite [article link](#)

III: Exposing Our Enemy - Meet the Economic Elite [article link](#)

IV: The Financial Coup d'Etat [article link](#)

V: Overcoming the Divide and Conquer Strategy

VI: How to Fight Back and Win: Common Ground Issues That Must Be Won

Although most of the Economic Elite live and operate inside the US, they are not concerned for our future. To them, the entire world is theirs and they work intimately with other elites throughout the world against the interests of the US public. Ever since the days of Henry Ford, the Economic Elite have needed a thriving US middle class to increase growth and profits, but now, in the global economy, they view the US middle class as obsolete. They increasingly look globally for profits and they would rather pay cheap labor in countries like China and India. On top of the millions of jobs they have already shipped overseas to increase profits at our expense, they are planning to ship an additional 25% of current US jobs overseas as well.

They now see us as the biggest obstacle to their continued consolidation of wealth and resources. This is why they have stepped up their attack on us.

If you want further proof of this, all one needs to do is study the Wall Street bailout. The entire bailout is strategically designed to eliminate the US middle class. Every time you hear the word “bailout,” you should think “coup d’état.” Here is the definition of coup d’état:

“A coup d’état or coup for short, is the sudden unconstitutional deposition of a government, usually by a small group of the existing state establishment ... to replace the deposed government with another. A coup d’état succeeds when the usurpers establish their legitimacy if the attacked government fail to thwart them, by allowing their (strategic, tactical, political) consolidation and then receiving the deposed government’s surrender; or the acquiescence of the populace and the non-participant military forces.

Typically, a coup d’état uses the extant government’s power to assume political control of the country. In Coup d’État: A Practical Handbook, military historian Edward Luttwak says: ‘A coup consists of the infiltration of a small, but critical, segment of the state apparatus, which is then used to displace the government from its control of the remainder’, thus, armed force (either military or paramilitary) is not a defining feature of a coup d’état.”

The bailout was a financial coup, an intelligence operation to seize control of the US economy and tax system. It is similar to what the Economic Elite have done through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in many other countries throughout the world. It is clearly a case of economic imperialism. When financial coups are carried out in other countries, they call it a Structural Adjustment Program (SAP). The end result is the theft of working class wealth, the privatization of public functions and resources, rising unemployment, the elimination of the middle class and increasing taxation and debt that turns the overwhelming majority of the nation into a peasant class. This is exactly the track we are on now.

... Every step of the way, the economic terrorist organization led by Paulson, Geithner and Bernanke held our economy hostage by declaring that all their demands must be met or the entire economy would be destroyed, as a result of the very actions the players being rewarded had taken. (I don't use the words "economic terrorists" as hyperbole. The threat posed by them and the amount of death, destruction and misery they have already caused the United States is much greater than that caused by Bin Laden and Al-Qaeda - it's not even close.)

Through the crisis, the fundamental structure of the stock market has been proven to be a scam. The Ponzi scheme activities, outright market manipulation and massive worldwide fraud perpetrated by Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley, Citigroup, AIG, the three major ratings agencies and several other Wall Street elite firms are blatant. Just in the housing and oil futures markets alone, the criminal activity and economic theft is in the multi-trillions.

By looking the other way, the SEC, Congress and Presidents Bush and Obama are complicit. An analysis of actions taken, or most often not taken, by the leaders of both the Republican and Democratic parties prove that they are now accomplices. They have not only let it happen; they continue to look the other way and have been stonewalling laws, investigations and prosecutions in what is clearly criminal activity. ...

... And now that Obama has given trillions of our dollars to Wall Street, he is all of a sudden so concerned about our national deficit. That is disgraceful! **When it came to the Economic Elite he could give away trillions, but when it comes to the social infrastructure of the American public and creating job programs, we all of a sudden have to be tight with our tax money and make "painful choices."** **When looking at Obama's latest \$100 billion jobs program, again, compare that to the \$150 billion in bonuses.** If you want to know if Obama is serious about creating jobs, just look at where he gave his big "Jobs Speech" - at the Business Roundtable affiliated Brookings Institution. Thus again, confirming where his true loyalties lie. ...

... It is hard to face the fact that we have been so taken advantage of and abandoned by the very people we supported and had put our hope and faith into. Americans need to understand that Obama, along with most of the Democrats and Republicans are not looking out for our best interests.

Amped Status [home page](#)

Wall Street's Bailout Hustle

by Matt Taibbi [article link](#) [article link](#)

Published on Sunday, February 21, 2010 by Rolling Stone

Goldman Sachs and other big banks aren't just pocketing the trillions we gave them to rescue the economy - they're re-creating the conditions for another crash.

Rolling Stone [home page](#)

CommonDreams [home page](#)

Solution to the Credit Crisis? The Campaign for State-owned Banks

by Ellen Brown [article link](#)

Global Research, February 21, 2010

While bank bailouts fatten Wall Street, states continue to battle the credit crisis. In the search for innovative solutions, some political candidates are proposing that states generate their own credit by setting up their own banks.

Global Research [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:39 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Sunday, February 21, 2010

Anarchism and Truth 4

A Treatise of the Spiritual Aspects of Anarchism
by Peter Ostrowski
excerpts con't:

Lastly, we must understand that which we call democracy. Through promulgated lies we believe unquestioningly that democracy, when taken to describe organised voting for government, is a man's highest freedom, that it creates a world of the people's choosing, of equality, that it is a levelling power. This is not so. Democracy must allow any action of the individual's own choosing. It is to assert and facilitate the right for each to achieve their full potential as human and spiritual beings. It is to never again vote for government, for no one has the right to govern another, even when claiming to be empowered to do so by the fiat of a majority consensus within a land area he chooses to name Country. Voting is enslaving and deference, and is not democracy. **When capitalists speak of democracy and capitalism facilitating equality and freedom of opportunity for all, they speak solely of only one kind of opportunity - that to make money, and nothing else. In fact, all other freedom is denied unless, as a secondary consequence, it generates money.**

We allow ourselves to believe that in Britain and other countries which we deem to be democracies, the laws we have 'chosen' to live under are equal for all individual citizens in each of those states. We consider this to be entirely just and condemn any alien state which we believe sets and upholds different laws for different groups of people within that state. But in fact we know of nowhere where this is not so, for we are all citizens of Earth and this is exactly the system nationalism necessarily creates for us all. And in any case, is it in fact just to homogeneously and oppressively attempt to regulate the behaviour and lives of so many people, all of whom are so very different from each other, having such widely varying aspirations and talents?

We are blind, silent, paralysed, numb and barely sentient. But we are here, and we look to see what this place is and what it is that we are. Is there a way to create our eyes and tongues and wings? I believe we know of a way; we must have the courage to take this path. And I believe that as I write, fewer than five hundred more years thus remain for humanity as it exists at present.

And so we point our radio telescopes toward the countless billions of stars, listening, waiting. But there is only silence, only the aching loneliness of being lost and alone in an unimaginably vast universe. It is for us to find what is beyond this darkness and to become something more than predators and prey in the primeval swamps and jungles. For, as long as there is no one here to be contacted, the sky will remain black, forever silent.

2. DIGNITY

Exactly what is anarchism? Why is it important and what will we achieve through it?

The lower, most primitive parts of the mind are the cause of war, murder and capitalism. The higher regions are all we have with which to overcome these insentient urges - they comprise our only weapon against instincts which could eventually destroy us all completely. These highest echelons of our humanity are neglected in us all, and in some

they lie totally unrecognised by that individual. Human culture must therefore embrace and exalt these facets of ourselves which point us to the full potential of sentience in the universe, for only such a culture can possibly ensure the survival of life on Earth. Such work - the gestalt sum of individuals' vocational professions - is called anarchism.

But all societies actively repress the use and development of these most highly evolved faculties of the mind, allowing the violent, unthinking, primitive parts to control us both as individuals and as a world society. Anarchism is the process by which we must reverse this trend if we are to have any future.

This concept of vocational professions [our ministry] - work towards both the spiritual revolution and the further development of Man - differing from labour for money, is very difficult to explain popularly because the great majority of us do not have such professions. Anarchists - the only people who do such work - comprise only a handful of members of the human race.

The people who are working towards the spiritual revolution are insultingly and vindictively accused of sloth and parasitism, when in fact the only true work is theirs. Such remarks and attitude come from those of no vision, aspiration or commitment to anyone other than themselves. They are the true unemployed. They are the ones who are lazy, the majority who are wholly reliant on a very few.



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:29 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Anarchism and Truth 5

A Treatise of the Spiritual Aspects of Anarchism

by Peter Ostrowski

excerpts con't:

Facts must be demonstrable. We must find a way to articulate exactly why anarchism, art and science are important. Even if we give part of the answer - that these things are vital to our survival and progress - we must then give a reason as to why our survival should concern us, why progress has value and, indeed, define precisely what progress is. In any argument between anarchist and capitalist, the former will be able to deliver an unshakable counter-argument against every attempt to justify the capitalist system, the ultimate such refutation being that capitalism will destroy mankind. This leaves the capitalist with one last riposte - final and desperate, yet still seemingly impossible to refute. He will ask why we should care for anyone else, why we should care what happens on Earth after our own deaths. To find a reply is truly difficult.

When anarchism is such a seemingly arcane philosophy - the remit of a small number of individuals, each isolated from the others - then can the basic tenets of anarchism be expected to be embraced by humanity as a whole? They will not be if these concepts are philosophically complex and difficult to understand on an intellectual level. But they are not! **The precepts of anarchism rest on the spiritual base which I believe is present in all people. If not for the social forces - in actual fact, anti-social, pernicious forces - which blind us and bury our spirituality, the spirit of anarchism would pervade the world we live in. Capitalism, by its very nature, leads people away from the sight of their own spirituality - it actively prevents us from living spiritual lives.** We are denied true education, and are forced to engage in activities (under pain of death) which are humiliating, degrading, damaging to our physical and mental health, and are a waste of the time we need in which to work. We dedicate our lives to waiting for our own ends: for five o'clock, for Friday, for retirement, for death. Under Mammon, ambition consists of but wishing our entire lives away. **And the paths along which capitalism does send us could lead anywhere - to violence, war or total genocide. We have lost control over our own directions.**

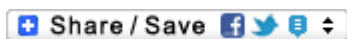
In defending itself, **Mammon doesn't merely suppress the word anarchism, but understands the power of ridicule and reduces the meaning of the name to something which people will equate with no more than terrorism and rioting,** and which for them will have no political meaning or ideology at all.

Thus the police seek to exculpate themselves from any responsibility for incidents of violence at public demonstrations or rallies by directing the blame for any such confrontations onto 'anarchists', immediately gaining public support through the years of the misappropriation of the word. National and global television and other media networks duly and authoritatively report and disseminate this unchallenged libel. **Anarchism is thus continuously fighting such world-wide reactionary political misinformation, becoming reduced to no more than a purely perjorative and abusive term, whilst being denied virtually any media access at all in which to expound its actual aims and viewpoint.**

Mankind's destiny may only be realised through anarchism, yet it is the one political creed which is completely censored and suppressed by all aspects of modern society, including the popular media and all children's state education.

Would the creation of an anarchist political party help to strike back against this misinformation and media neglect? It is difficult to see how anarchism's work could be placed in the party political arena. Anarchism transcends leftism and rightism, and if it were to be placed in the political spectrum, there could be nothing to the left of it, and to its right would only be ranged various degrees of watered down capitalism. In any case, its voice would be tiny and unheard. **Perhaps the formation of an anarchist union is possible, however - a society bringing individuals together so that they do not feel so alone in their work [the "anointed" community].**

We need to identify the areas in which fundamental social changes must be made. For example, the problem of unemployment may be addressed by attempting to spread work out among all citizens. **But in a society so advanced that a concerted effort has been made to share out jobs in a fair way, money will have been abolished too.** This would eradicate 99% of the jobs which exist at present. Conversely, many more vocational human activities will be created by this monumental advancement in our spirituality. Necessary labour would then be done as a form of voluntary national service and would not impinge to an intrusive degree on liberty and the time which people need to work at these professions. Such labour would be performed during natural breaks in a person's career, if such gaps happen to arise. Inevitably, some professions would allow for little such time, and so people would have to give as much as they were able to, even if this meant that some could only contribute very little. But under anarchy we would understand and allow for this.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:17 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Saturday, February 20, 2010

[Our Only Weapon Is Our Refusal](#)

MM Book 1 Chapter 4-12

Only those who understand their tools can really control them and only if we understand the corporate tools that are used to control us can we fight back effectively [**money** is the most effective control mechanism ever developed by man; it is an evil instru-mentality] – by coming to understand the reality behind the current world economic system, we can learn to build a new operating system for ourselves, a new way of organizing our productive activities that will build community instead of destroying it, that will empower us as individuals rather than enslaving us and reducing us to cogs in an incomprehensible and uncontrollable machine; this is the **common purpose** [that we might destroy the works of the devil], the sense of common purpose, of community.

The “private” Federal Reserve Notes [FRNs] are stained and tainted with blood and oppression; they are separate from the love of God, indeed opposed to it – the use of the phrase “In God We Trust” inscribed on these instruments of evil is an affront to God and His righteousness: Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God ... Deuteronomy 6:16 — the prophets for profit (both secular and religious) are responsible: Isaiah 9:15 The ancient and honourable, he [is] the head; and the prophet that teacheth lies, he [is] the tail. 16 For the leaders of this people cause [them] to err; and [they that are] led of them [are] destroyed. Psalm 62:10 **Trust not in oppression**, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart [upon them].

MM Book 1 Chapter 4-13

Each FRN is contaminated with evil and the degree of our infection [the social control, the bondage], our social sickness, is determined by the degree [the intensity] of our contact with it – we must not only seek healing for ourselves, but by doing so, provide healing for the whole social organism – **FRNs (and associate currencies, CDN Dollar/Pound/Euro) must be refused and rejected**; God promises *true* liberty, FRNs are predicated upon usury [debt is the controlling factor, interest is the continuity factor] – Jesus did not carry Roman currency and neither should we [when challenged about paying tribute unto Caesar He had to ask his accusers for one of their coins] — **we must follow and emulate Christ and reduce and eventually eliminate our dependence on, and our utilization of, corrupt private currency** – 1 Timothy 5:22 ... *neither be partaker [G2841] of other men's sins*: keep thyself pure [Strong's Concordance - be partaker; communicate; distribute 1a) to come into communion or fellowship with, to become a sharer, be made a partner 1b) to enter into fellowship, join one's self to an associate, make one's self a sharer or partner].

MM Book 1 Chapter 4-14

Supreme authority [as final, proud, arrogant, ultimate, highest in rank and power, the presumption of the merchant-State, and the corporate church] denies rights, but God is *servant authority*, an authority of service, example and design, a right way of life with its attendant benefits and blessings [supreme in regards to highest in quality, achievement, performance, etc., most excellent] – Human Rights are not privileges granted by God, but are *inherent rights* [not a thing given, established, or conferred], they are *ordained* of God, self-existent; these are God's *own* rights, the rights of His very Family !! – God is NOT privilege, nor does He confer the same — those of claimed “Divine Right”, those who back the governing powers, the “Self-Appointed Guardian Elite” [the SAGE, the very descendants of Charlemagne] [ref: [MM Addendum 1 and 2](#) (widescreen) or [blog](#)], those who rule this their world [they built it, they own it (kosmos); the "Crown-Corporate", "US-Corporate", "EU-Corporate", the "divine sanction" given/assumed; "private State" imposed over "public Nation" (the corporate Nation-State)], have taken the Rights of God and have made them privileges to be granted by themselves – these are privileges at the caprice of SAGE authority — supremacy has *all* the rights; therefore their crimes against humanity are not wrongs in their view, for if you have no rights, you cannot be wronged; **when rights are recognized, privilege is destroyed !!** — this is the secret, the solution, the recognition that leads to our withdrawal [our only weapon is our refusal] and our return to God; the power of the State becomes non-existent.

MM Book 1 Chapter 4 [web page](#) (widescreen)

MM Book 1 [blog home](#)

British military insider: World War III is being staged; starting with Israel and Iran

by Carl Herman [article link](#)

February 18, 9:07 PMLA County Nonpartisan Examiner

Examiners [home page](#)

Impending Explosion: U.S. Intensifies Threats To Russia And Iran

by Rick Rozoff [article link](#)

Global Research, February 19, 2010

Global Research [home page](#)

Hate 2.0

by Barnabe F. Geisweiller [article link](#)

Published on Saturday, February 20, 2010 by CommonDreams.org

CommonDreams [home page](#)

Who's Afraid of 'Interposition'?

by William Norman Grigg [article link](#) [article link](#)

Thursday, February 18, 2010

Pro Libertate [blog home](#)

LewRockwell [home page](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:44 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Friday, February 19, 2010

[David DeGraw: Exposing Our Enemy 1](#)

Part III: **Exposing Our Enemy - Meet the Economic Elite**

By David DeGraw, AmpedStatus Report [article link](#)

Posted on Friday, February 19th, 2010

This is the third-part of a six-part report.

[Parts 1 and 2 excerpted below: The American Dream A Nightmare 3, The Plundering of Society]

[please refer to original Part III article for the numerous links not included below]

I: Casualties of Economic Terrorism, Surveying the Damage [article link](#)

II: The Rise of the Economic Elite [article link](#)

III: Exposing Our Enemy - Meet the Economic Elite [article link](#)

IV: The Financial Coup d'Etat

V: Overcoming the Divide and Conquer Strategy

VI: How to Fight Back and Win: Common Ground Issues That Must Be Won

III: Exposing Our Enemy - Meet the Economic Elite

“The money powers prey upon the nation in times of peace and conspire against it in times of adversity. It is more despotic than a monarchy, more insolent than autocracy, and more selfish than bureaucracy. It denounces as public enemies, all who question its methods or throw light upon its crimes... As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money powers of the country will endeavor to prolong it's reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed.” – Abraham Lincoln

U.S. Elite Institutions:

Federal Reserve - Business Council - Bilderberg Group - Conference Board - Brookings Institute - Advertising Council - Heritage Foundation - Trilateral Commission - Business Round Table - Chamber of Commerce - Federal Trade Commission - Council on Foreign Relations - American Petroleum Institute - American Enterprise Institute - American Bankers Association - Pharm Research & Manufacturers - Public Relations Society of America - American Psychological Association - Project for a New American Century - Securities and Exchange Commission - Committee for Economic Development - National Association of Manufacturers - Carnegie / Ford / Rockefeller foundations - Military / Media / Prison Industrial Complex

I don't view the Economic Elite as a small group of men who meet in secrecy to control the world. They do feature elements of conspiracy and are clearly composed of secretive organizations like the Bilderberg Group - this is not a conspiracy theory, this is a conspiracy fact - but as a whole **the Economic Elite are primarily united by ideology**. They're made up of thousands of individuals who subscribe to an ideology of exploitation and the belief that wealth and resources need to be concentrated into the fewest hands possible (theirs), at the expense of the many [ref: MM Addendum 1 [web page](#) (widescreen) or [blog home](#)].

That being said, there are some definite lead players in this group and it is important that we are not too vague and expose the individuals who publicly lead them. Focusing on the fundamental structure of the US economy, we have people like Hank Paulson, Tim Geithner, Ben Bernanke, Robert Rubin, Larry Summers, Alan Greenspan, Lloyd Blankfein, Jamie

Dimon, John Mack, Vikram Pandit, John Thain, Hank Greenberg, Ken Lewis, John J. Castellani, Edward Yingling and Tom Donohue.

In total, the Economic Elite are made up of about 0.5% of the US population. At the center of this group is the Business Roundtable, an organization representing Fortune 500 CEOs that is also interlocked with several lead elite organizations. Most Americans have never heard of the Business Roundtable. However, in my analysis, it is the most influential and powerful Economic Elite organization.

“The Business Roundtable joined the Business Council at the heart of both the corporate community and the policy-formation network and now has the most powerful role.... The Roundtable’s interlocks with other policy groups and with think tanks are presented [below].” — G. William Domhoff, Who Rules America?

The Roundtable’s first year of operation was 1972, which coincided with the beginning of the CEO salary explosion, and has been the driving force behind the unprecedented concentration of wealth since their inception. Their dominance over the US economy and government is unparalleled. Their members are a Who’s Who of everything that is wrong with our economy. Here is a partial list of some of their lead members:

- Lloyd C. Blankfein, Goldman Sachs
- James Dimon, JPMorgan Chase & Co.
- James P. Gorman, Morgan Stanley
- Vikram S. Pandit, Citigroup, Inc.
- Brian T. Moynihan, Bank of America
- Brendan McDonagh, HSBC
- Robert W. Selander, MasterCard Incorporated
- Kenneth I. Chenault, American Express Company
- Rupert Murdoch, News Corporation
- Glenn A. Britt, Time Warner Cable Inc.
- Philippe Dauman, Viacom, Inc.
- Jeffrey R. Immelt, General Electric Company
- Brian L. Roberts, Comcast Corporation
- Steven A. Ballmer, Microsoft Corporation
- John T. Chambers, Cisco Systems, Inc.
- Randall L. Stephenson, AT&T Inc.
- Ivan G. Seidenberg, Verizon Communications
- David G. DeWalt, McAfee, Inc.
- Steven R. Loranger, ITT Corporation
- Paul T. Hanrahan, AES Corporation, The
- Riley P. Bechtel, Bechtel Group, Inc.
- W. James McNerney, Boeing Company, The
- Rex W. Tillerson, Exxon Mobil Corporation
- Marvin E. Odum, Shell Oil Company
- John S. Watson, Chevron Corporation
- James J. Mulva, ConocoPhillips
- John B. Hess, Hess Corporation
- James E. Rogers, Duke Energy Corporation
- J. Larry Nichols, Devon Energy Corporation
- Ronald A. Williams, Aetna Inc.
- David Cordani, CIGNA
- Jeffrey B. Kindler, Pfizer Inc.
- Angela F. Braly, WellPoint, Inc.
- John C. Lechleiter, Eli Lilly and Company
- Edward B. Rust, Jr., State Farm
- Andrew N. Liveris, Dow Chemical

——James W. Owens, Caterpillar Inc.
——Ellen J. Kullman, DuPont
——Edward E. Whitacre Jr., General Motors Company
——Michael T. Duke, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:13 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

David DeGraw: Exposing Our Enemy 2

The Business Roundtable is the most powerful activist organization in the United States. Their leaders regularly lobby members of Congress behind closed doors and often meet privately with the President and his administration. Any legislation that affects Roundtable members has almost zero possibility of passing without their support.

For three major examples, look at healthcare and financial reform, along with the military budget. The healthcare reform bill devolved into what amounts to an insurance industry bailout and was drastically altered by Roundtable lobbyists representing interests like WellPoint, Aetna, Cigna, Pfizer, Eli Lilly and Johnson & Johnson. Obama and Congress are trying to please the Roundtable with a bill that supports their interests. This led to the dropping of the public-option put forth in the House bill. However, when it came to finishing the bill, Roundtable members began to walk away from the process. That's the real reason why the reform bill has stalled. Obama will be meeting with the Roundtable on February 24th, in hopes of getting healthcare reform back on track. After that meeting, he will then hold a bipartisan healthcare meeting with members of congress.

Also being addressed in Obama's upcoming meeting with the Roundtable are issues concerning financial reform. Almost every aspect of financial reform has been D.O.A. thanks to Roundtable lobbyists representing the interests of Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley, Citigroup, Bank of America, HSBC, Master Card and American Express. They even pushed to make sure Ben Bernanke was reconfirmed as the head of the Federal Reserve and they have also guided Obama into focusing on deficit reduction, now that their member companies are healthy again and making record profits after receiving trillions in government subsidies. The Roundtable played a pivotal role in the appointment of Hank Paulson, formerly the CEO of Roundtable member Goldman Sachs, who replaced Roundtable member John Snow as US Treasury Secretary. The Roundtable also strongly lobbied on behalf of current Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner and White House National Economic Council Director Larry Summers. Although there has been recent talk of Geithner being replaced at the Treasury, the lead choice to replace him is Jamie Dimon, Roundtable member and CEO of JP Morgan Chase.

The drastic rise in military spending is also a result of Roundtable lobbyists pushing the interests of large military companies like Boeing and Bechtel, along with the largest oil companies like ExxonMobil, Shell, Hess and Chevron.

The Roundtable tells politicians what they want done, and the politicians do it. At times, Roundtable members even write the laws themselves. On financial reform alone, those representing Wall Street firms gave "\$42 million to lawmakers, mostly to members of the House and Senate banking committees and House and Senate leaders." During the 2008 election cycle, they gave \$155 million: \$88 million to Democrats and \$67 million to Republicans. Keep in mind, this is the spending on just their financial reform initiative. When it came to health reform, they gave even more.

When it comes to getting elected, over 90% of the time the candidate who simply spends more money on their campaign wins the election. The Roundtable and politicians recognize this fact, so the overwhelming majority of current elected officials relied heavily on campaign funding from Roundtable members, including President Obama.

Shortly after Obama's inauguration he held a meeting with Roundtable members at the St. Regis Hotel. The president of the Business Roundtable is John J. Castellani. Throughout the first nine months of Obama's presidency, Castellani met with him at the White House more than any other person, with the exception of Chamber of Commerce CEO Tom Donohue. If you look at the records of people who have spent the most time with Obama in the White House, other than these two, another frequent visitor is Edward Yingling, the president of the American Bankers Association.

These organizations - the Business Roundtable, Chamber of Commerce and the American Bankers Association - along with the Federal Reserve, a secretive quasi-government private institution, form the center of the Economic Elite's power structure. Since the bailout, the Federal Reserve has been working closely with private firm BlackRock. Due to this relationship, BlackRock has emerged as the world's largest money manager and now manages more assets than the Federal Reserve. They also "manage many of the Treasury Department's big investments."

On a global level, you have economic institutions like the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, and international treaties like NAFTA. **These organizations already form a de facto world government that has rights beyond our constitutional rights and national sovereignty.** If the WTO makes a ruling that goes against US law, the WTO ruling supersedes US law and wins out.



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:08 PM](#) [2 comments](#)

David DeGraw: Exposing Our Enemy 3

Here is how Global Exchange explains these global institutions:

"The World Trade Organization is the most powerful legislative and judicial body in the world. By promoting the 'free trade' agenda of multinational corporations above the interests of local communities, working families, and the environment, the WTO has systematically undermined democracy around the world.... Unlike United Nations treaties, the International Labor Organization conventions, or multilateral environmental agreements, WTO rules can be enforced through sanctions. This gives the WTO more power than any other international body. The WTO's authority even eclipses national governments.

[World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF)]

When the Bank and the Fund lend money to debtor countries, the money comes with strings attached. These strings come in the form of policy prescriptions called 'structural adjustment policies.' These policies—or SAPs, as they are sometimes called—require debtor governments to open their economies to penetration by foreign corporations, allowing access to the country's workers and environment at bargain basement prices. Structural adjustment policies mean across-the-board privatization of public utilities and publicly owned industries. They mean the slashing of government budgets, leading to cutbacks in spending on health care and education.... And, as their imposition in country after country in Latin America, Africa, and Asia has shown, they lead to deeper inequality and environmental destruction."

In addition to dominating our political and economic system, **the Economic Elite have already created their own private military.** Their private military is now more powerful than the US military [ref: MM Addendum 1-24 [web page](#) (widescreen) or [blog](#)]. As mentioned earlier, private mercenaries now outnumber US soldiers and receive the lion's share of military spending.

Corporations like SAIC, Blackwater, Bechtel, Raytheon and Halliburton are composed of the most elite worldwide intelligence and military officers. These are the highly profitable and powerful entities that the Economic Elite turn to when national militaries and intelligence agencies - like the CIA, FBI or other government run entities - can't get the job done.

For instance, SAIC, a "stealth company" that most people have never heard of, is considered to be the brains of the entire US intelligence apparatus, more powerful than the much more popularly known CIA, NSA and FBI - all agencies that SAIC is deeply intertwined with. I urge you to research SAIC to get a crash course in how the true power structure functions. You can start by reading an excellent investigative report by Donald L. Barlett and James B. Steele titled, "Washington's \$8 billion shadow."

The Economic Elite dominate US intelligence and military operations. Other than the obvious geo-strategic reasons, the never-ending and ever-expanding War on Terror's objective is to drain the US population of more resources and further rob US taxpayers, while using our tax money to create a private military that is more powerful than the US military.

I think any logical person can see the ominous implications of having such a vast and powerful private military and intelligence complex, created for and used, in secrecy, by the Economic Elite. Outside of the blatant economic policy attacks, heavily armed and sophisticated covert powers led by small groups of Economic Elite are now a serious risk and present danger.

In conclusion, these economic and government policy forming organizations, along with their private military and intelligence corporations, form the core of the Economic Elite power structure.

“I think one has to say it’s not just simply a matter of capturing people and holding them accountable, but removing the sanctuaries, removing the support systems.” – Paul Wolfowitz

Amped Status [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Thursday, February 18, 2010

[The American Dream A Nightmare 1](#)

Real, Uglier American Unemployment

by Joel S. Hirschhorn [article link](#)

Global Research, February 17, 2010

Can you trust national averages? As bad as the jobless data you hear are, you have not been told the whole truth. If you think the terrible impact of America ’s Great Recession is shown by an official unemployment rate of about 10 percent, think again.

Economic inequality and the myth of Reagan trickle down logic are shown by new data from the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University in Boston . The report noted: “What has been missing from the public debate over the labor market crisis is an honest and detailed analysis of which American workers have been most adversely affected by the deep deterioration in labor markets.” The researchers found a correlation between household income and unemployment rate in the last quarter of 2009: Look carefully at these numbers and see how unemployment rises as income drops:

\$150,000 or more, 3.2 percent
\$100,000 to 149,999, 8 percent
\$75,000 to \$99,999, 5 percent
\$60,000 to \$75,000, 6.4 percent
\$50,000 to \$59,000, 7.8 percent
\$40,000 to \$49,000, 9 percent
\$30,000 to \$39,999, 12.2 percent
\$20,000 to \$29,999, 19.7 percent
\$12,500 to \$20,000, 19.1 percent
\$12,499 or less, 30.8 percent

Ten times worse unemployment in the lowest class than in the highest class! Truly amazing and disheartening, don’t you think? And you can also infer that in some hard hit geographical areas the poorest people and people of color are being even more adversely impacted. And don’t think for a minute that things have really improved in 2010.

The report summed up the situation: “A true labor market depression faced those in the bottom...of the income distribution; a deep labor market recession prevailed among those in the middle of the distribution, and close to a full employment environment prevailed at the top.” People at the top remain winners no matter how bad the whole economy. Why? The

wealthy Upper Class controls so much of the political system and benefit from countless government policies. They may lose something in an economic meltdown but not enough to suffer significantly.

Conversely, those at the bottom of the economic system with no political power are experiencing something as bad as the Great Depression, with no end in sight.

What pundits don't emphasize is that government policies that do not target lower income groups are a failure and disgrace. Worse than destroying the middle class, we are creating a Lower Class like that found in third world countries. Indeed, compared to places like China and European nations, America's poor are suffering about as badly as anyone on the planet, except for a few dismal places like Haiti. **Needing food handouts, losing homes, missing health insurance, and lacking jobs mock the American Dream.**

Wait; there is even more bad news. When underemployment is factored in — part time workers that want to work full time, and those who have stopped looking but want a job — the picture gets even worse. In the lowest group, the underemployment rate was 20.6 percent, compared with just 1.6 percent in the highest group. So the total in the lowest class is 51.4 percent (3.7 million people) compared to 4.8 percent in the wealthy class (530,000 people). Also consider that last November nearly 20 percent of all men between 25 and 54 did not have jobs, the highest figure since the labor bureau began counting in 1948.

Now you know why the constantly noted official jobless rate for the nation of 10 percent and 17 percent when underemployment is counted are a joke, or is it a purposeful deception, like a truth bubble?

How can jobs be created for the lower economic classes? You hear very, very few new ideas from politicians. It comes down to federal spending that better targets job creation to the lower income groups, and waiting for more general consumer spending, especially by the more affluent, to create more low level jobs, mostly in service areas. But we need specifics and better legislation.

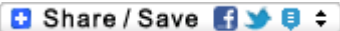
Consider this green energy fiasco. A huge amount of federal stimulus money provided for building wind farms. It is creating jobs in China to build wind turbines, not in America. In fact, 80 percent of such federal funding is going overseas. All because Congress and the White House did not ensure a made-in-America requirement. Was a backroom deal made to keep China happy so that they would keep loaning us money?

When the poorest people suffer so disproportionately as compared to the wealthiest, perhaps only violent revolution will fix America's dysfunctional, broken and delusional democracy. Will President Obama cite the above frightening data in any public forum to make the case for stronger federal efforts? What do you think?

The high numbers for the lower income people mean that no amount of government action, in even five years or more, will solve jobless problem, because no amount of economic growth can possibly create enough new jobs. The US would have to produce 10 million new jobs just to get back to the unemployment levels of 2007 - impossible for many years. So, politicians will keep making things look better by citing the national average.

Joel S. Hirschhorn can be reached through delusionaldemocracy.com.

Global Research [Articles](#) by Joel S. Hirschhorn
Global Research [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:59 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The American Dream A Nightmare 2

The Future of the Dollar

by futureofdollar.com [article link](#)

Global Research, February 18, 2010

futureofdollar.com - 2010-02-17

The World is concerned that the dollar cannot play the role of the main reserve currency any longer after the financial crisis sparked by the collapse of the U.S. mortgage market led to the worst global recession since the 1930s. The Government's stimulus packages, financial bailouts, the need to support liquidity in Treasuries, keeping interest rates at the lowest level under the circumstances of low economic growth, high unemployment and low tax collection make it print more dollars. **This leads to a high risk of substantial inflation, or hyperinflation in a long-run.**

With a \$12.3 trillion national debt and \$55 trillion in unfunded obligations for programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, with total Federal Reserve and Treasury bailout commitments now at \$11.8 trillion, of which \$3.6 trillion has already been spent the U.S. need to take steps immediately to protect themselves from the potential loss of the purchasing power of their U.S. Dollars, inflation.us warns.

Although there is still no significant inflation data in the United States international stock and commodity markets grew abnormally within the last eleven months. Analysts called it the "flight from the dollar" or "diversifying risks."

There are many factors evidencing against the future of the dollar as a global reserve currency. In the present article futureofdollar.com pays attention to the crucial points of analysis after conducting an extensive research on the topic.

Part I

Weak Fundamentals of the U.S. Economy ...

1. National Debt ...
2. Unemployment ...
3. Budget deficit ...
4. Financial sector ...
5. Home Sales ...
6. Economic impact of U.S. international military operations ...
7. China's peg to the dollar ...

Part II

Lack of Coincidence ...

Part III

Diversification Out of the Dollar ...

Part IV

Way Out

Peterson-Pew Commission on Budget Reform suggests that "the United States must show its creditors that it is serious about stabilizing the federal debt over a reasonable time frame. Both spending cuts and tax increases will be necessary."

Most of the economists would suggest that the anti-inflation strategy of the United States should include:

- * suppression of inflation expectations and stimulation of savings;
- * reaching balance between budget receipts and expenditures;
- * **increasing the mass of commodities;** and

* strengthening national currency by establishing an unconditional priority of inflation targeting over other government programs (such as military expenses, unemployment rate regulation, influencing the national currency market, etc.).

Will the U.S. assume such a pain by reducing spending and fighting the deficits? Probably not, taking into consideration the words of Sir John Templeton, the John Templeton Foundation, who said in 2005: "The psychology all over the world is that people will not re-elect leaders who want them to be thrifty. The voters will elect the government that spends more money." (53)

Many analysts are pretty sure that the weak dollar policy is beneficial to the U.S. Therefore, whatever the authorities say, there will be no resistance to dollar depreciation on their part.

Most experts already doubt that the solution of the problem depends much on the U.S. and call for global measures. "We must reform the international monetary system," Yu Yongding, a former Chinese central bank adviser, stated in mid-November 2009. "A good monetary system should make us confident. But we don't have confidence in the U.S. dollar now," he added. (54)

George Soros, a global financier, is convinced that we "need a new currency system and actually the Special Drawing Rights do give you the makings of a system," he told the Financial Times.

The Future of the Dollar

The future of the dollar is in jeopardy now as it is evident from the article.

This subject is the primary focus of futureofdollar.com. We follow latest developments in this area and provide our readers information from reliable sources.

This analysis is prepared by futureofdollar.com
Global Research [home page](#)

The Daily Bell

How Global Fiat Money Dies

by Staff Report [article link](#)

Thursday, February 18, 2010

... This is not an "emergency" that the power-elite can overcome through the kind of crisis-management at which they are adept. They cannot bring their think tanks to bear or defuse the growing rage through orchestrated mainstream media campaigns. It is truly a mass movement partaking of Hayek's spontaneous order. There are no leaders to arrest, no agitators to shoot, no ideological arguments to debunk. The reason for this state of affairs is because the Internet - which is fueling all the above - is a PROCESS not an event. And the process is ongoing. From the power elite point of view, it will only GET WORSE. Free-market thinking will only become more acute, and at the same time more generalized. And this is a terrible nightmare for them. ...

We have certainly written some of the above before, but we are sure our regular readers will indulge our repetition. We - and you - have a ringside seat to the biggest show on earth. This is the biggest story that will ever be written in our lifetimes. **We are seeing what may be the end of a hundred-year-old attempt to subvert the freedoms of the entire Western world.** Oh, certainly things will not go smoothly! The power elite in our estimation controls most of what can be controlled, and can start wars to boot. But it is already too late to control the dissemination of the Internet's free-market information. It is already too late to erase a generalized understanding of how the elite's fear-based promotions work, or how they take advantage of such promotions to rob the average person of wealth and hope.

Will we see a gold and silver standard in our lifetime? Or free banking? Don't know. Will we see a reduction of war, a pull-back on domestic spying and repression? Perhaps. We tend to think so. We base our assumptions on what happened after the Gutenberg press made books generally available, a state of affairs that eventually swept away the entire old order and

remade Western civilization - for the better in many ways. Ideas are far more powerful than swords, or even tanks. Even tactical nuclear weapons. **When a people in aggregate find out they have been lied to, watch out.**

It is for this reason, then, that we write of the death of fiat money. If the great fiat-money economies of the world stagger under the twin weights of price-inflation and failing, jobless economies, there will be massive socio-political difficulties in our opinion. But this time, the manipulations available to a power elite that wishes to keep the current damnable system in place will not be available because of the Internet. People will understand, in our opinion, and will not tolerate the machinations. The same thing that is happening to global warming will eventually happen to the entire central-banking scheme. It will begin to fall apart. **People, tortured by their sudden poverty and the rapine of hopelessness, will read the truth and act.** It will not be pleasant for the power elite that has invested so much time and money in the current intergenerational scheme, but it is simply human nature. It is life.

Conclusion: Smell that? There is a sudden but discernable whiff of panic in the air. We think the elite has miscalculated. Instead of global regulatory regime and controllable global populism, they are increasingly faced with the informed rage of millions and eventually, perhaps, tens or hundreds of millions. Add in China and Japan and you're talking billions. We know there are plenty of savvy readers who will disagree with us. It is all in the plan, they will write, as they have before. The elite is in control every step of the way, they will inform us with understandable cynicism or barely disguised despair. But, please consider ... what if they are not?

The Daily Bell [home page](#)

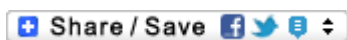
Is the Web Making Us Passive?

by Washington's Blog [blog link](#)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2010

... All of us - even political writers and filmmakers- need to guard against settling for virtual victories. **We have to get out there and engage in real action in the "real world" as well**, and to guard against a dystopian Matrix-like future where the virtual reality is wonderful but the real world is a nightmare. ...

Washington's Blog [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:39 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

The American Dream A Nightmare 3

Wall Street's War against Main Street America

By Prof. Michael Hudson [article link](#)

February 17, 2010 "Global Research"

Throughout the world, scaling back the 20th century's legacy of progressive taxation and untaxing real estate and finance has led to a public debt crisis. Property income hitherto paid to governments is now paid to the banks. **And although Wall Street has extracted \$13 trillion in bailouts just since October 2008, the thought of raising taxes on wealth to pay just \$1 trillion over an entire decade for Social Security or health insurance is deemed a crisis that would lead Wall Street to shut down the economy.** It is telling governments to shift to a regressive tax system to make up the fiscal shortfall by raising taxes on labor and cutting back public spending on the economy at large. This is what is plunging economies from California to Greece and the Baltics into fiscal and financial crisis. Wall Street's solution – to balance the budget by cutting back the government's social contract and deregulating finance all the more – will shrink the economy and make the budget deficits even more severe.

Information Clearing House [home page](#)

The Richest 1% Have Captured America's Wealth

What's It Going to Take to Get It Back?

By David DeGraw [article link](#) [article link](#)

This is Part II of David DeGraw's report, "The Economic Elite vs. People of the USA." Click [here](#) for Part I.

February 17, 2010 "Alternet"

The U.S. already had the highest inequality of wealth in the industrialized world prior to the financial crisis -- and it's gotten even worse.

... the United States already had the highest inequality of wealth in the industrialized world prior to the financial crisis. Since the crisis, which has hit the average worker much harder than CEOs, the gap between the top one percent and the remaining 99% of the US population has grown to a record high. The economic top one percent of the population now owns over 70% of all financial assets, an all time record. ...

... the average US citizen is forced to give up approximately 30% of our income in taxes. This tax system is now strategically designed to flow straight into the hands of the Economic Elite. A huge percentage of our tax dollars ultimately end up in their pockets. The past decade proves that -- whether it's the Republicans or the Democrats running the government -- **our tax money is not going into our community, it is going into the pockets of the billionaires who have bought off both parties - it is obscene.**

For an example of how this system flows to the Economic Elite, just look at the Wall Street "bailout." The real size of the bailout is estimated to be \$14 trillion - and could end up costing trillions more than that. By now you are probably also sick of hearing about the bailout, but stop and think about this for a moment. Do you comprehend how much \$14 trillion is?

What could be accomplished with this money is almost beyond common comprehension.

And this is just the tip of the iceberg that has hit us. On top of the trillions given to the Wall Street elite, we already have a record \$12.3 trillion in national debt - and we now have to pay \$500 billion in interest to the Economic Elite on this debt every year, yet another way they are milking us dry. When you add in unfunded liabilities owed, like social security payments, we actually owe a stunning \$74 trillion. That adds up to a debt of \$242,000 for every man, woman and child in America. ...

When you take the time to research and analyze the wealth that has gone to the economic top one percent, you begin to realize just how much we have been robbed. Trillions upon trillions of dollars that could make the lives of all hard working Americans much easier have been strategically funneled into the coffers of the Economic Elite. **The denial of wealth is the key to the Economic Elite's power. An entire generation of massive wealth creation has been strategically withheld from 99% of the US population.**

The US public doesn't have any understanding of how much wealth has been generated and concentrated into the hands of the Economic Elite over the past 40 years; there is no historical frame of reference. **This withholding of wealth is truly the greatest crime against humanity in the history of civilization.**

What could be done with all the money that has been hoarded by the Economic Elite is extraordinary!

Let's consider what we could do with the money that has been stolen from us? On top of what should be our average six-figure yearly

income, we could have:

- * Free health care for every American,
- * A free 4 bedroom home for every American family,
- * 5% tax rate for 99% of Americans,
- * Drastically improved public education and free college for all,

* Significantly improved public transportation and infrastructure,

The list goes on...

This is not some far-fetched fantasy. These are all things that Franklin D. Roosevelt talked about doing in the 1940's, long before the explosion of wealth creation in our technologically advanced global economy. The money for all this is already there, stashed into the claws of the Economic Elite. The denial of wealth to the masses is the key to the Economic Elite's power. Outside of outdated and obsolete economic models and theories -- and incredibly short-sighted greed -- there is no reason why all this money should be kept in the hands of a few, at the immense suffering and expense of the many.

If Americans could just understand how much wealth is being withheld from us, we would have a massive uprising and the Economic Elite would be swept away, into the history books alongside the evil despots of the past.

AlterNet [home page](#)

Amped Status [home page](#)

With A Deficit Like Ours, Who Needs Enemies...?

By Giordano Bruno [article link](#)

Neithercorp Press - 2/9/2010

... It is interesting and perhaps despairing to note that the government's solution to our current economic spiral (caused in large part by the unchecked creation of debt by the Federal Reserve) is to now create even MORE debt through successive bailouts, in an attempt to encourage Americans and the U.S. Treasury to borrow even MORE money which they cannot afford to pay back. When this plan meets its inevitable failure, as common sense and simple mathematics dictate it will, we the people will be told that it was all a terrible "mistake." That our government's greed and stupidity led to a horrible "miscalculation." **In fact, such mistakes, such "perfect storms," are not made by accident. They are purposely engineered...**

In order to create a globalized economy and a world governing body, free nations would have to relinquish private control of their finances along with many of their personal liberties. Americans would never go along with such a scheme, especially as they are used to being the primary economic power in the world. It is not only possible but quite probable that Central Banking officials in the U.S. along with the help of certain politicians are deliberately creating a financial panic scenario by which they hope to drive the American people into desperation. The goal is to make us ASK for globalization, to make us believe that it is the only solution to the problem they originally created. ...

Neithercorp Press [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:19 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

[Anarchism and Truth 2](#)

A Treatise of the Spiritual Aspects of Anarchism

by Peter Ostrowski

excerpts con't:

We follow those who ensure that we believe we need to follow by reducing all human endeavour and aspiration to a simple choice between right and wrong. But is it right to deny one's own self and follow blindly? Is it right to lead? Is it wrong to believe that human worth lies beyond the making of money or mere survival? No one declares what the difference between right and wrong actually is.

So is it then 'right' that in our schools there exists such an extraordinary and profound dichotomy in what is taught as the basic truths of Creation? For science and religion are both presented as such truths. The purpose of compulsory state education was, ostensibly, to educate all our people, so that the fetters of superstition and ignorance would be removed and truth, that is, knowledge and understanding, would prevail, and thus free-thinking and our spiritual awareness of the world and our place in it would grow in all of us. But our chosen minister for education, responsible for the teaching and popularisation of science, declares that schools should be institutions where these undefined terms, right and wrong, are taught and explained. He tells us this can only be achieved through the teaching of religion to our children. Thus they will believe it right that the world was created in six days. That supernatural creating entities spoke to men, before murdering them all in divine deluge. That decaying corpses can rise and live again, that there is a world just above the sky to which they then levitate and enter. That it is right and preordained that we will destroy ourselves in a final battle and be judged good or evil, right or wrong, holy or irredeemably damned. Thus we are taught that the responsibility for our survival and progress and for our Armageddon does not lie in our collective hands, for if the blame for total and final genocide were held by all mankind, then who would be holy, who would be good, who would be right?

The lessons for life which are taught and learned in schools are inculcated through lies, intimidation and hostility; the last people in the world who should be teachers are teachers. We learn that respect is something to be demanded, and that it may be commanded through violence. We learn that, if our strength is sufficient, assault is to be used for coercion, that others will obey our orders if we kick and punch them. And then we take our lessons with us, scars proudly borne, into our solitary, final journeys. This is how we are building our future.

Hence we despise, fear or ignore true science and the highest art - our only means of progress and, indeed, survival. This is why we speak of employment and work as we do; they are to us the infrastructure of our conservative, stagnant world, and we are but epiphenomenal to it - sentience is seen as being no more than machinery. Those whom we regard as working are said to be employed, that is, the labouring are used - we regard labour as exploitation, something with which to be graced by others, and then regard it as our personal strength. But what of the unemployed? Do they not live? If so, why must we labour? Would we too not live without employment? It is possible that we would, but we must realise that those whom we term unemployed live only through a trick of language, because the unemployed are not the dead. In any case, we must conclude that we keep people alive who do not keep us alive. For the criterion for accusing those who do not earn money of irresponsibility and non-contribution to society is whether or not they need more money to stay alive than they already own. Inactivity, sloth and greed by the financially independent is at best envied, at worst lauded, while the unfunded professional is seen as a parasite in the world he loves and whose future he is fighting to work for, for such work is adjudged meritorious solely by the practitioner's financial solvency, and not its intrinsic value. The activities which people who have professions (in this sense of the word) demand to do are not just for their enjoyment or to alleviate boredom - theirs is anarchist work, which mankind must do because capitalism is murdering millions daily and for that reason alone has to be eradicated. Capitalists claim that we should let the unemployed die, for mankind has no future anyway and that there can be no social progress.

The Babel brought upon us by this inhuman force, the creator and annihilator of words, is its life blood. If the intangible remains nameless then it will not exist within our confounded language, and so will be unspoken, invisible, untouchable and perfectly armoured. Hence to name it would be to speak of it and to begin to understand that which cannot survive in our sight. **We name it Mammon and expose it.**

Mammon must defend itself. Its greatest strength is in knowing that human spirituality is the one force which would destroy it and so must be kept in perpetual twilight - capitalism ensures that anarchism and revolution do not pay and are therefore very difficult work for most people to do. Mammon's greatest weakness, and the reason why its own murder is inevitable, is in not understanding at all what the soul is, what it means to touch the numinous.

Then we must name the forces of Mammon which, like puppet strings, bind and violently repel us, keeping us as fractured tribes, strangers before our own people. This we name nationalism.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:48 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Anarchism and Truth 3

A Treatise of the Spiritual Aspects of Anarchism
by Peter Ostrowski
excerpts con't:

We are living in the time that history will remember as the dark ages. A time when good citizenship is taken to mean the willingness not to contribute, but to compete, to work only towards one's personal interest and gain; to show deference and obedience to the winners, the vanquishers. The ultimate winners are those who command deference even from those others who name themselves winners. But clearly, to hold such values is the antithesis of citizenship. And nowhere in these rules we dare not write down is there any reason why the thief and murderer should not serve self-interest at any cost to the other.

But what freedoms, choices and opportunities can there be for those who live within this artificial fortress we have constructed? When there is nothing to achieve or contribute, only competition and winning or losing, then the enterprise of the winner is negligible against the infrastructure within which such victory has been forged. For this game, this battlefield, has been created by the hundreds of generations before us and, of course, by the vanquished, the losers. The only achievement of the winners is to maintain this tyranny of our own making to create future winners and losers.

But our games are played and won with loaded dice. Those who do not win are bound and helpless at the start. We cannot even refuse to compete. And what is there to win but the right to throw our lives away, to beg for mindless labour? Capitalism would reduce free-will to a choice between unending toil and extermination. Those who think they have won, in so viewing their position in Creation, have nothing; Mammon feeds on such beliefs, leaving the winner with the greatest imaginable loss.

We believe that there are many different political systems in place in the world, other natures of nationalistic tyranny. We speak loosely of capitalism, socialism, communism, and think that there are fundamental differences in the ways that various countries maintain their existence. But what is capitalism if not the need to labour for money, while a ruling elite control the citizens by force? This is the only political system there has ever been in this world where no country can exist in isolation, and where each builds its armour of nationalism by creating, and maintaining or distorting, an abstracted economy.

So we will define capitalism as the building of economic fortresses, as nationalism, as inter-state economic competition. Thus to define communism will be to speak of a world without money, a world which must be all Earth, no less, for Mammon will not allow such a state to exist in isolated seclusion, surrounded by its totalitarian barbarism. It will be to recognise that there are no countries, and hence to never again speak of such arbitrary land areas nor of mindless allegiance to them. It will be our return to the allegorical Eden. Moreover, we will name this bridge we are building over genocide's canyon socialism. This will be the work and lives that are to take us to this great ending and beginning. It will be the name of our changing.

Out of all arrogance and presumptiveness, the worst is for one to demand obedience and deference from another. Communism will be lawless, for no one has the right to command others. At that time we will be united by anarchy. Each will have unreserved respect for every sentient mind, every being living, dead or unborn; human, animal or a future intelligence beyond imagining; terrestrial or other-worldly. For not only do we exploit and abuse that which is human, but also we exploit, abuse and even feed on, devour, all that is sentient, all that which knows. Never again will it be so; the revolution will facilitate the liberty of all. At such a time the anarchist will finally live by anarchy; today he must live by anarchism. Anarchy will be born of anarchism at the end of socialism's path toward our future.

Anarchism is the name of mankind's struggle against ignorance. Both science and the highest art have this ultimate aim, so they are both anarchist activities, but we also suffer in part from social ignorance, and fighting this is the third class of anarchist work. Social ignorance is ultimately blindness to our own spirituality, and it is our spirituality which fuels art and science, so clearly then our work must proceed in all three areas simultaneously if we are to achieve anarchy. But even in an anarchic Utopia, progress will not be finished, of course. We will still be living in a vast, unexplored, barely

understood universe, only we will have then achieved a level of spiritual enlightenment - present in all individuals - which will allow us to finally pass the boundary between anarchism and anarchy. It will be like emerging from a global childhood.

It is preferable for anarchists to speak of the eradication of capitalism rather than its abolition. To use the word abolition would imply that mammon may be legislated against, when in reality it must be removed from our hearts, forever. When capitalism has been eradicated there will be no laws, not even those which promote freedom. **(In fact, it is not even wholly correct to speak of the removal of capitalism, for capitalism's cause is not something solid and tangible, rather it is a great hole in our souls which must be filled with spiritual awareness and a sense of the numinous.)**

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:40 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

[Anarchism and Truth 1](#)

A Treatise of the Spiritual Aspects of Anarchism

by Peter Ostrowski

excerpts:

1. OUT OF DARKNESS

... Who will endow our words with meaning if not we? We speak of work, of god, of society, yet have no common understanding of their meaning, nor even acceptance of their existence. Our words are chosen for us and inhuman forces decide on what they are to mean. So when these shells of language are finally passed down for us to use we find them to be but empty sounds. In fear of losing language and returning to darkness and not knowing, we look to the word-maker to lead us to their meanings.

From upon our tower, high over Babel, we see a land imbued with confusion. Some of us manipulate the chaos to create meaning for those who wish to believe; for for them to refuse to believe in that which is not true would be to believe in nothing. But what is truth? Can the absolute and the subjective both be truths? Cannot the allegorical and metaphysical be truth?

When meaning is taken away from our words, they will become the tools of the word-manipulators. Words with which we cannot communicate are not needed; they will become intersynonymous and then be lost. We must reclaim their meaning, for only then can we use language to speak of building mankind's future. New words will be needed and created as our understanding grows and new questions about our universe are asked.

We speak of jobs and professions as pertaining to purpose in existence. What are these things? Are they what we do to obtain money which we need to stay alive? If so, then we claim that survival is the purpose of our survival. In thinking of professionalism we vaguely acknowledge a tenuous divide somewhere between unskilled labour for money only and jobs which require skills or qualifications; something somehow higher yet still paid. So in a world with no money, will people cease to have professions? We face a plethora of ambiguity and non-definition and a paucity of words themselves. But to define the profession as vocational work towards revolution and, moreover, towards the realisation of humankind's highest potential, is to envision a money-less world in which all have professions; a world in which work becomes that which is chosen by the individual, and choice is truly choice, not submission to necessity, not the coercion of poverty and death, as all the paths of option will be leading away from the heart and mind and will of the individual.

I believe that there can be no political mechanism to act against famine, war, material and spiritual poverty and the daily murder of millions which is perpetrated by nationalism and capitalism. The revolution, when it comes, will be a spiritual one, for change can only be born of a new way of seeing the world, a new consciousness. A profession is, immediately, work towards such an end. It is work which is internationally illegal, for all governments actively stifle or

legislate against its facilitation. But it also has a greater purpose. There will come a time when we no longer need to fight against our self-imposed oppression, and professional work will then become pure art and science, pushing us towards achievements we cannot even contemplate today. We will no longer be burdened by mere survival, but be free to explore Creation in any way we can, elevating ourselves ever onwards towards ultimate truth.

It is a lie that more than a very few of the labouring and administrative tasks set for us are necessary, for it is a lie that money exists, and without imagining money all but one in many thousands of the jobs that are being done today would be inconceivable. We tell ourselves that employment should be exploitative to have value, that to labour out of the greed of others is to have a job. Let us not belittle the worth of our lives so. Even accepting capitalism's compromises, that to work pragmatically and selflessly we need funding for food, shelter and materials, let us believe that one can only be said to be employed, to have a job, if one is financially able to live and work professionally, alone if need be. Self-funding through unrelated labour is unemployment if the work suffers, as it inevitably must, through the time that is thus wasted. We must reclaim all that which has been stolen from us by exploitative labour.

Even for those who want for nothing other than survival, labour, day after day, year after year, which merely supplements another's income, must be named, for surely then it does not provide a 'living wage'. Furthermore, if the supplemented income is insufficient, then it also cannot be funding for a job. Thus we must question how many 'jobs' (in the lower sense of the word) actually exist. How small a minority of people do this thing which is ostensibly compulsory?

To speak of 'earning' a living is surely mankind's greatest self-deprecation. It is as if we are stating that some people, through their own sloth or fecklessness, do not deserve to live. In this way we belittle art and science, which exist to benefit all mankind, not merely to provide the artist or scientist with money for survival. Yet we perpetuate massed fear and resistance of these highest of human activities, our only tools for realising our future, our common destiny.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:53 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Plundering of Society

The Economic Elite Have Engineered an Extraordinary Coup, Threatening the Very Existence of the Middle Class

By David DeGraw [article link](#) [article link](#)

February 15, 2010 Alternet"

The economic elite have robbed us all. The amount of suffering in the United States of America is literally a crime against humanity.

America, the Land of Inequality

By Tom Eley [article link](#) [article link](#)

February 15, 2010 "WSWS" - February 13, 2010

President Barack Obama has done nothing to reverse decades of wage stagnation, mounting poverty, and attacks on the social welfare system. On the contrary, following George W. Bush, he has seized on the crisis to redistribute wealth to a tiny financial elite through the ongoing bailout of the finance industry.

This demonstrates a fundamental political reality: no reform that benefits the broad masses can come from a government and two-party system so openly in the clutches of Wall Street. The financial aristocracy's grip over all the levers of state power must be broken by the working class, independently mobilized behind a socialist program. ...

... In fact "most of the American people" not only begrudge these ill-gotten gains. They wonder why they have yet to see news footage of bankers and traders arrested and hauled from their plush offices. Now working class anger is becoming increasingly trained on the political system, which, as a year's experience with the Obama administration has taught, does the bidding of Wall Street regardless of which party controls the White House and Congress.

The antidote to the plundering of society that has gone unchecked for decades is the nationalization of the banks and their transformation into public institutions, democratically controlled by working people. **The ill-gotten gains of the lords of finance must be expropriated** and used to put in place a program of full employment, free universal health care, free higher education, and infrastructure development.

The fight for this program requires the mobilization of the working class in the US and internationally, independent of the Democrats and Republicans and all the political formations that defend the existing capitalist set-up.

World Socialist Web Site [home page](#)
Information Clearing House [home page](#)
AlterNet [home page](#)

Socialism - The Royal Road to Power for the Super-Rich

by Gary Allen [article link](#)

None Dare Call It Conspiracy by Gary Allen [download book](#)
2.16.10

Rule by Oligarchs ... A Country of Serfs

by Paul Craig Roberts [article link](#)

2.16.10

... Hapless Americans, unrepresented and betrayed, are in store for a greater crisis to come. President Bush's war deficits were financed by America's trade deficit. China, Japan, and OPEC, with whom the U.S. runs trade deficits, used their trade surpluses to purchase U.S. Treasury debt, thus financing the U.S. government budget deficit.

The problem now is that the U.S. budget deficits have suddenly grown immensely from wars, bankster bailouts, jobs stimulus programs, and lower tax revenues as a result of the serious recession. Budget deficits are now three times the size of the trade deficit. Thus, the surpluses of China, Japan, and OPEC are insufficient to take the newly issued U.S. government debt off the market.

If the Treasury's bonds can't be sold to investors, pension funds, banks, and foreign governments, the Federal Reserve will have to purchase them by creating new money. When the rest of the world realizes the inflationary implications, the US dollar will lose its reserve currency role. When that happens Americans will experience a large economic shock as their living standards take another big hit.

America is on its way to becoming a country of serfs ruled by oligarchs.

SilverBear Cafe [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:33 PM](#) [1 comments](#)

Secret Fundamentalism at the Heart of American Power

The Family

Secret Fundamentalism at the Heart of American Power

By Northwetrain [article link](#) [article link](#)

February 15, 2010 "Politics & Imagination"

The FAMILY, by Jeff Sharlet, sounds rather like the title to a book about the Mafia. And in a way this book is about a religious fundamentalist mafia. The problem is that the very people who should read this book and be warned probably won't be bothered to take the time. The Genealogy of American Protestant Fundamentalism goes back to the early history of this country, and further back to England and Europe, Lutherans and the wars among the Christians, Catholics and

Protestants. Sharlet explores the early history and traces where the “Experimental” Fundamentalists breaks away from the traveling preachers or revival preachers – the Evangelical brand that is closely identified with the American Frontier.

Missionaries are part of many religions. The need to convert others, to save others, to offer salvation to the world, the heathen world has been a driving force behind the colonization of the globe by European Nations – oh that and the allure of Gold and other high value commodities. Set this concept of Missionary aside and think of the one very special class in need of salvation. Then set this aside and think of an even more exclusive class, the ruling class and even despot dictators.

The goal of the Secret Fundamentalist cult is to turn the US into a Theocracy followed by the whole world. Just a simply little goal – and as usual with cultist only the supreme leader is able to speak directly with their God. Democracy is messy. This Fundamentalist cult has a history of seeking the powerful politically and corporate leaders. Their idea of creating Christ’s heaven on earth is using the existing power structure.

Jeff Sharlet takes us from his first encounter with the Family and then backward in time to the roots of this Dominionist religion. If you were raised in one of the many American Christian Fundamentalists sects you will no doubt be familiar with much of the religion-speak. But forget about the Jesus of the New Testament and his beatitudes, of caring for those less fortunate than ourselves. The very wealthy corporatists aren’t interested in welfare and social security. Their version of God smiles on the rulers and leaders. The reason people are poor it is God’s will and it is the fault of the poor, they have been bad and are evil. The gilded era of America is when the missionaries to the top tier of the wealthiest began their form of American Fundamentalism. These missionaries are not interested in spreading democracy. The reign of Jesus on earth will not be through democracy in the view of the founders of this brand of Christians.

The problem is that this Dominion over the world brand of fundamentalist has a vision of their perfect world. There are several different versions of God’s Kingdom on earth according to the different evangelical fundamentalist sects, each has their own path to their perfect world. Free will or choice doesn’t enter into their perfect world. Independent women, or women’s view equal human rights to those of men isn’t part of the perfect world of the Dominionist’s world view. Women can and have been used as soldiers to further the goals of these Secret Fundamentalists.

It wasn’t Sharlet’s goal to write about the Domination of women by men, but that thread runs through his book. This is not surprising since ALL fundamentalist religions have as a foundation belief that women are evil and must be controlled or dominated. In some fundamentalist religions women who do not comply with the patriarchal rulers demands are eliminated. Wealthy women, especially widows who willingly fund the spread of the Dominionist fundamentalism are promised a special place in the new kingdom of Jesus on earth. These women have fallen for the oldest con in the world – the promise of heaven and “life everlasting.” This is one of the code words that fundamentalists use, which others who are believers, recognize instantly. These code words are spoken by politicians to let voters know that these politicians are working for goals specific to the Fundamentalist movement. GW Bush used code words, as have other politicians.

The wall between church and state have been breached; the Constitution is becoming a meaningless document filled with meaningless words that have no relationship to the Nation of God that the Secret Fundamentalists want for America. Many of the so call liberal blogs have been taken over by moles who do their best to block any discussion of the Dominionists efforts to take over the US. Anyone who brings this up is branded crazy.

Sharlet’s book is a must read, it is not an easy book to read because of the world view, the point of view of the Dominionist Fundamentalists so far from Democracy and Free will that most people simply won’t believe that such a thing could happen in America. To understand the Secret Fundamentalists means that you need to understand the history and the philosophy of Narcissistic personalities who founded this ministry to the despots and Corporatist of the world.

Jeff Sharlet [blog home](#)

Information Clearing House [home page](#)

Politics & Imagination [blog home](#)

MM Addendum 1-15 [web page](#) (widescreen) [blog home](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:24 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monday, February 15, 2010

[A Developing Community](#)

**** True Intelligence **** is God's Way, utilizing the "creation imprint" designed and intended for man; intelligence beyond thought; God-made sense of self vs. conditioned/manufactured/social mythic "mind-made" sense of self [the imprisoned mind] - the mind seeks to control the situation; fear future or desire future; the mind will fuel the impulse/situation; it will project into "the now" to shape the reality -- God's mind, His very consciousness, can be, and is, ours !! -- we must acknowledge what we feel, not what we deny, in our existence; a spaciousness around what we feel, our environment [emotional; state of grace, capacity for service]; MAKING SENSE, A DEEPENING OF MIND; INNER STILLNESS, A LACK OF FEAR; SERENITY, PEACE = the whole structure of "mind-made" sense of self dies | DEPTH, SACREDNESS !!

Media culture = representable interference with reality: accommodating the camera - torrent of images and sound = numbing the mind; we collaborate with our own dumbing down: we plug-in willingly - we are part of a long running desire to find a low risk, low demand release from the problems of life ... the promise that the next "one" will provide the solution ... the "CNN effect" to produce a public opinion result, that results in government intervention; so-called "experts" recycled ad-nauseum - corporate journalists using the "we" in their questions, the collective pronoun used in questioning government officials: there is a carefully managed "news agenda" to produce a carefully managed and manufactured public opinion - the "appearance" of reporting is exposed by the "guest list", the pre-defined framework of corporate experts ... very seldom are NGO's and alternative views presented by their own; limited views are presented mostly by the corporate - **a vast spectrum of diversity must be realized, a vital presentation and exchange of ideas and opinions: AN OPEN COMMONS NEEDED !!** - [experts based on NPR, Talk of the Nation]

Corporate enforcement of systemic lies vs. any opposition; we must respond only by education and persuasion by example - the COG Inc.'s, "enforcement" of their defined Truth is also a falsehood, a misapplication -- God wants us to be pure and whole; He does not want us to be automatons and just obey Him, He wants us to connect with Him from the *wholeness* of ourselves [in union with God, begotten as Family] - the COG is a developing community, a community that is *loving* towards everyone and everything, a community that is "in community" with everyone and everything: ONE WITH GOD, IN WHOLENESS - IF WE EXPRESS GOD, IF WE ARE *IN* AGAPE LOVE, EXPRESSING LOVE, PURITY, AND TRUTH, ANYWHERE CAN BE, AND IS, OUR COMMUNITY - we can't change anything but ourselves, and it takes God's help to renew our minds, to override and rid ourselves of selfishness, to look after the care of someone else - every failure [or sin (our violation of God's character, the 10C)] or difficulty [or contradiction in our lives, our conduct] is an opportunity to learn and change our ways - [wholeness based on Touched By Nature, Dorothy MacLean, Shared Vision] -- we are BONDED to God by love, His love, freely given as gift.

The Information Super-Sewer

by Chris Hedges [article link](#) [article link](#)

Published on Monday, February 15, 2010

CommonDreams [home page](#)

truthdig [home page](#)

The Internet has become one more tool hijacked by corporate interests to accelerate our cultural, political and economic decline. The great promise of the Internet, to open up dialogue, break down cultural barriers, promote democracy and unleash innovation and creativity, has been exposed as a scam. The Internet is dividing us into antagonistic clans, in which we chant the same slogans and hate the same enemies, while our creative work is handed for free to Web providers who use it as bait for advertising. ...

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:36 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Finian Cunningham: Socialism or Barbarism

Socialism or Barbarism: the Choice is Ours

by Finian Cunningham [article link](#)

Global Research, February 12, 2010

Time is of the essence. Given the descent into barbarism that the world is witnessing as a result of the breakdown in capitalism, there is a very real danger that US-led militarism could escalate even further from its existing criminal wars in Iraq and Afghanistan/Pakistan into an all-out conflagration with any number of countries designated to be geopolitical rivals or miscreants: China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Venezuela, Cuba. History proves that this is always the brutal outcome when the profit system is threatened with total collapse.

For those committed to creating a world of social justice and peace, it is vital to communicate as widely as possible as to the precise cause of the present economic failure, with its consequent social misery and violence. Let's not be under any illusions about the root of barbarism today: it is, as Rosa Luxemburg and others have pointed out, the failure of capitalism as a system of production and distribution to meet human needs in an equitable, democratic and sustainable way.

Equally vital in this hour is the need to put forward an alternative to barbarism in order to mobilise the majority of ordinary people ravaged by the capitalist kleptocracy; to provide a clear set of social, economic and political objectives. Otherwise, the kleptocrats – the corporate leaders, banks, financial gamblers and their political and military servants – will attempt purging the crisis through escalated war (and all the chaos and disinformation that will ensue).

What also needs to be communicated widely is that the objective of democratic control of the economy cannot be achieved within the two-party system of the US and most other western states. These parties have shown themselves to be willing partners-in-crime with the oligarchy, which also includes the leaders of labour unions who have served to emasculate workers and their rights.

To that end, the case must be made more than ever that socialism is a viable alternative to this barbarism. To save time and space here, readers can avail of several existing statements for practical, socialist change (for example, see www.wsws.org and www.workerscompass.org). In brief, the objective is to bring production under democratic control so that basic human needs for food and accommodation, meaningful work, health and education become the determinants of the economy – not the private profit of an elite that has evidently brought whole societies to their knees. As a first step, the major, vital industries (manufacturers, energy, communications and banks) must be properly nationalised, that is, brought under democratic control to meet needs democratically. A half-baked form of nationalism is already underway with taxpayer bailouts of automakers and banks. The trouble is that the kleptocrats are still receiving the lion's share of financial rewards. So, any baulking by the oligarchy and their media mouthpieces over "public ownership" should be laughed at with derision.

In communicating the viability of socialism, the use of language needs to be precise in order to debunk myths and disinformation so as to help the constituency for change – the majority of citizens – retain their focus on the required direction for democratic change. Here are some myths and disinformation:

Myth 1: Capitalism runs on the supply and demand of free individuals exercising choices in a free market. This is a powerful myth because it deceptively conflates a deeply held democratic principle of freedom with economic workings. Whatever about early capitalism of two centuries ago and more, the present period of late capitalism is largely bereft of free markets and choices. Think of Boeing and Raytheon. These "emblems of American capitalism" would not survive without massive taxpayer subventions from the \$710 billion that the US government lavishes on the Pentagon every year. President Obama recently congratulated top Wall Street bankers on receiving multi-million-dollar bonuses, saying that it was the manifestation of the American "free market" system. Given the monopoly of these banks, the ruin that they have plunged societies into, and the taxpayer bailouts to shore up the unseemly wealth of a financial elite, the espousal of such a myth by Obama is ludicrous. Also, just what is so free about the millions of workers who were compelled to take on reckless mortgage debts in order to make ends meet because their wages and livelihoods had been bled dry over decades by the oligarchy?

Myth 2: Centrally planned economies don't work. Try telling that to the world's top transnational corporations, all of whom plan their production and distribution operations rationally with massive government (taxpayer) intervention to facilitate their operations. Oil companies are a classic example. The biggest oil company in the world, Saudi Aramco, is estimated to be worth \$7 trillion and dwarfs the likes of Exxon and Royal Dutch Shell. Aramco is rated as one of the most efficient international enterprises in terms of production, technological innovation and business. It is 100 per cent state-owned and bankrolls Saudi Arabia's social development. In the real world, that kind of industrial success is more akin to socialism than notional free market capitalism. There is no reason why similar control could not be applied to all major industries, especially given recent developments in information technology (another centrally planned success!) which would ensure production and supply is geared to meet real social needs.

Myth 3: Socialism has been tried and doesn't work, degenerating into despotic barbarism. References to the Soviet Union are a red herring. The Stalinist-type dictatorship came into being under specific historical circumstances, for example, the immediate attack on the Russian Revolution by the West, creating an inward-looking bureaucratic state run by a reactionary elite. Note also the deformities of the Second World War and the ensuing Cold War (see [Jacques Pauwels](#)). Many supporters of socialism were among the most trenchant critics of the Soviet Union long before its collapse. And anyway, what if a crude attempt at creating socialism failed? Capitalist economies fail all the time throughout history, degenerating into despotic barbarism, as in the present.

Myth 4: Socialism is un-American. While the Stalinist caricature of socialism is contrary to the values of US citizens – and other democratic people – the principles of solidarity, equality, and opposition to elite power are not. The many accounts of socialist movements throughout American history, as documented by the late Howard Zinn, are testimony to that.

Myth 5: Socialism already exists in the form of the US oligarchy. This is a particularly wrong-headed myth. Some commentators have referred to the White House-Wall Street complex as Obama's "Marxist/socialist entourage". Paul Krugman, writing in the New York Times, describes the cozy relationship between government and financiers as "a kind of socialism". Make no mistake: the deformed, dysfunctional economies of the US and Europe are the outcome of decades of capitalist misrule. To label the crisis wrongly with lazy terminology, as Krugman and others do, only serves to disinform the wider public as to the true cause of the problem and what can be a viable change of course.

Myth 6: The crisis is caused by "unfettered capitalism". In other words, capitalism can be controlled. It can't. The entire history of the US – the unravelling of legislation and the bending of courts and the constitution by corporate lobbyists – is a classic case study in itself of how capitalism inexorably subverts democratic control and concentrates power and wealth for a minority, leaving the majority dispossessed and disenfranchised.

Myth 7: Class politics and class war is an anachronism. Ironically, just the opposite. The living standards of workers, their families and communities are being brutally savaged by a tiny class – the oligarchy. The constituency for radical political change in the US, Europe and elsewhere has probably never been bigger. And of those workers – whether blue or white collar – lucky enough to still have a job, just ask how many of them feel as if they are one pay cheque away from poverty. That amounts to a serious class of people with abundantly more common interest than the wealthy elite; a serious class of people who increasingly have "got nothing to lose except their chains".

All the above is only a sketch of what kind of society and economy is achievable. More details can be added as people come together to work out, through the consensus of the "common good", what they need to achieve. The point for now is to encourage the majority of people to work together; to think and act independently from the misrulers, with all their myths and self-serving disinformation; to be confident in the conviction that real democracy is achievable; that basic human needs can be met equitably; and that countries can co-exist in a true spirit of peaceful internationalism free from the barbarism of capitalist rivalry and war. Socialism is the way for this to be achieved, not just because it is morally right, but also because it is arguably a superior form of society and economy.

The emperor has no clothes...

finian.cunningham@gmail.com

Finian Cunningham is a frequent contributor to Global Research.

Global Research [Articles](#) by Finian Cunningham
Global Research [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:15 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Monday, February 15, 2010

Odious Debts - Refuse To Pay

The U.S "Odious Debts" used to Finance Illegal Wars

Refuse to Pay Government Debt Incurred for Unlawful and Oppressive Purposes ...

by Washington's Blog [article link](#)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2010

Refuse to Pay Government Debt Incurred for Unlawful and Oppressive Purposes ... It Is the Personal Debt of Those Who Ordered It to Be Incurred

There is an established legal principle that people should not have to repay their government's debt to the extent that it is incurred to launch aggressive wars or to oppress the people.

These "odious debts" are considered to be the personal debts of the tyrants who incurred them, rather than the country's debt.

Wikipedia gives a good [overview](#) of the principle:

In international law, odious debt is a legal theory which holds that the national debt incurred by a regime for purposes that do not serve the best interests of the nation, such as wars of aggression, should not be enforceable. Such debts are thus considered by this doctrine to be personal debts of the regime that incurred them and not debts of the state. In some respects, the concept is analogous to the invalidity of contracts signed under coercion.

The doctrine was formalized in a 1927 treatise by Alexander Nahum Sack, a Russian émigré legal theorist, based upon 19th Century precedents including Mexico's repudiation of debts incurred by Emperor Maximilian's regime, and the denial by the United States of Cuban liability for debts incurred by the Spanish colonial regime. According to Sack:

When a despotic regime contracts a debt, not for the needs or in the interests of the state, but rather to strengthen itself, to suppress a popular insurrection, etc, this debt is odious for the people of the entire state. This debt does not bind the nation; it is a debt of the regime, a personal debt contracted by the ruler, and consequently it falls with the demise of the regime. The reason why these odious debts cannot attach to the territory of the state is that they do not fulfil one of the conditions determining the lawfulness of State debts, namely that State debts must be incurred, and the proceeds used, for the needs and in the interests of the State. Odious debts, contracted and utilised for purposes which, to the lenders' knowledge, are contrary to the needs and the interests of the nation, are not binding on the nation – when it succeeds in overthrowing the government that contracted them – unless the debt is within the limits of real advantages that these debts might have

afforded. The lenders have committed a hostile act against the people, they cannot expect a nation which has freed itself of a despotic regime to assume these odious debts, which are the personal debts of the ruler.

Patricia Adams, executive director of Probe International (an environmental and public policy advocacy organisation in Canada), and author of *Odious Debts: Loose Lending, Corruption, and the Third World's Environmental Legacy*, has stated that:

by giving creditors an incentive to lend only for purposes that are transparent and of public benefit, future tyrants will lose their ability to finance their armies, and thus the war on terror and the cause of world peace will be better served.

A recent article by economists Seema Jayachandran and Michael Kremer has renewed interest in this topic. They propose that the idea can be used to create a new type of economic sanction to block further borrowing by dictators.

Jubilee USA [notes](#) that creditors may lose their rights to repayment of odious debts:

Odious debt is an established legal principle. Legally, debt is to be considered odious if the government used the money for personal purposes or to oppress the people. **Moreover, in cases where borrowed money was used in ways contrary to the people's interest, with the knowledge of the creditors, the creditors may be said to have committed a hostile act against the people. Creditors cannot legitimately expect repayment of such debts.**

The United States set the first precedent of odious debt when it seized control of Cuba from Spain. Spain insisted that Cuba repay the loans made to them by Spain. The U.S. repudiated (refused to pay) that debt, arguing that the debt was imposed on Cuba by force of arms and served Spain's interest rather than Cuba's, and that the debt therefore ought not be repaid. This precedent was upheld by international law in *Great Britain v. Costa Rica* (1923) when money was put to use for illegitimate purposes with full knowledge of the lending institution; the resulting debt was annulled.

The launch of the Iraq war was an unlawful war of aggression. It was based on false premises ([weapons of mass destruction](#) and a [connection between Iraq and 9/11](#); see [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#) and [this](#)). Therefore, the trillions in debts incurred in fighting that war are odious debts which the people might lawfully refuse to pay for.

The Bush and Obama administrations have also oppressed the American people through spying on us - even [before 9/11](#) (confirmed [here](#) and [here](#)) - harassment of innocent grandmothers and other patriotic Americans criticizing government action, and other assaults on liberty and the rule of law. See [this](#). The monies borrowed to finance these oppressive activities are also odious debts.

The government has also given trillions in bailouts, loans, guarantees and other perks to the too big to fails. These funds have not helped the American people. For example, the giant banks are [still not loaning](#). They have solely gone into speculative investments and to line the pockets of the muckety-mucks in the form of bonuses. PhD economist Dean Baker [said](#) that the true purpose of the bank rescues is "a massive redistribution of wealth to the bank shareholders and their top executives". [Two leading IMF officials, the former Vice President of the Dallas Federal Reserve](#), and the [the head of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City](#) have all said that **the United States is controlled by an oligarchy**. PhD economist Michael Hudson says that the financial "parasites" have killed the American economy, and they are "sucking as much money out" as they can before "jumping ship". These are odious debts.

Bush, Cheney, Paulson, Geithner, Summers and others who ordered that these debts be incurred must be held personally liable for them. **We the American people are not responsible to creditors - such as China, Saudi Arabia** - who have knowingly financed these illegal and oppressive activities which have not benefited the American people, but solely the handful of corrupt politicians who authorized them.

Note: Of course, many mom and pop American investors hold U.S. treasury bonds as well. The size of their haircuts on U.S. bonds might - under a strict reading of the principle of odious debt - depend on whether or not they knew of the unlawful and oppressive activities of the U.S. government. Arguably, small individual investors tend to be much less knowledgeable about such matters than other countries such as China or Saudi Arabia.

Washington's Blog [blog home](#)
Global Research [article link](#)
Jubilee USA Network [home page](#)

Billions for Bankers - Debts for the People

by Sheldon Emry [article link](#)

02.15.10

Editor's Note: This compilation provides a overview of central banking, the Federal Reserve and the specific steps that the Globalists have used to thwart the United States Constitution for the purpose of redistributing the wealth of our country. **Knowledge is empowering.** The concepts you are about to entertain may upset you. As a responsible patriot, you must grasp the reality of the globalist's motives and share this information with others..... Johnny Silver Bear

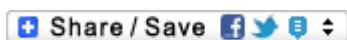
SilverBear Cafe [home page](#)

MM Book 1 Chapter 2-13

There is nothing “free” about free-enterprise; enormous costs are borne by society [private profits, socialized costs] !! – the rich are rich because everyone else paid/pays for them, are *in* “their debt” [money is debt] !! — the world is an illusion, **we must acquire, gain knowledge of the world to escape it** [gnosticism: the world and its god(s) a lesser creation]; CHRIST IS THE BRINGER OF “THE KNOWLEDGE” – IGNORANCE vs. ENLIGHTENMENT [God *is* the LIGHT] – is violence part of the path to Peace(making) [our "violent" peace(maker) of compliance], does God's Peace(maker) engender violence and war [systemic] ?? – the answer is *NO* !! – WE *OVERCOME* EVIL WITH GOOD !! — **MONEY [corporate] IS THEFT, the lives of billions have been, and are, being stolen !!** – the management/preservation of vested interest(s) denominated *in* currency [politics(-ians) nominated *by* currency; democratic-fascism], ungodly sums, extracting usury [human usury, slavery], rotting the fabric of society [our filthy rags] !! – WE MUST GIVE UP *ALL* AND ANY CLAIM, EVEN OF SELF, WE MUST *GIFT* ALL, ESPECIALLY OUR SELF [our God-ing; AS GOD IS] !!

MM Book 1 [web home](#) (widescreen)

MM Book 1 [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:33 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Sunday, February 14, 2010

Non-Violent Systemic Repudiation, Expatriation

Note: originally posted on Saturday, October 24, 2009

Communitarian Alternative: Open_Notes 5

An expatriator = one who advocates expatriation, repudiation and anarcho_communitarian values -- the adonim understanding [Adon (H113; H136 Adonay, my Lord), rendered "Lord," meaning Lord as Ruler of the earth; Adonim, the plural of Adon, carries all the meaning of Adon, but to a higher degree; God is the owner and proprietor of the earth, the Lord who rules his own] - Psm 111:10 ... a good understanding have all they who obey His commandments [the communitarian constitution; the 10C]; the recognition of the kingdom and authority of God (God's many names as explanation; the confederation of tribes).

The dom_innate vs. dominate, domination, dominant [DOM, to God, the great, the greatest] - usury in control, democracy non-existent; false usurper god -- usury = usurper -- labor, community groups, ngo's must turn from their tradition of

oppositional redistributionism to a new role as creators and generators of wealth - we have to stop demanding a bigger slice of the pie, and start making our own -- we have to listen, to give "ear" [expatriation and repudiation] -- Adonim = sole_proprietorship.

Communitarian reform movement -- which generation is going to make the sacrifices needed, ours or our children's or our grandchildren's ?? - we must become a people of deeds, not rhetoric - our very survival is at stake !! -- 2nd American Revolution, active, non-violent EXPATRIATION from the SAGE construct; a reconstruction of constitutional values; federated communities; sovereign individuals -- the begettal and rebirth of the American ideal, a revived and revised American System, the public-Nation -- a recognition needed before the reckoning can begin, a "recognition gospel".

Communitarian Alternative: Open_Notes 6

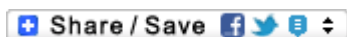
America (and by extension Canada) is an ideal; the ideal no longer exists -- America *is* its people; its people *are* America -- America is no longer a reality; America has ceased to exist; **America must be withdrawn from the corporate private_money system to be reborn**; the American System with its public_money system, communitarian and constitution values must be reinstated - the American people have been usurped of their *rights* under the corporate system -- corporate government and politicians at all levels must be disbanded and community "citizen assemblies", with a federated "people's congress" must be instituted in its place -- the individual is his own representative in the consensus process.

Violence must be avoided; you don't fight the Beast by becoming a beast yourself; non-violent EXPATRIATION is a must -- people have been mislead, even most in power - a massive educational effort must be initiated - people must be reacquainted with the American System as *ideal*, founded and based on God's Word - each citizen as teaching ministrant; study circles -- the American Dream must be awakened; the dream must become reality; we have been lulled into a very restless, deep sleep; the nightmare must end !!

A focus on the the social message - there is no shortage of persons preaching the Gospel message - the social message is the other side of the coin - the communitarian values inherent within the Gospel message - the spiritual and physical are inextricably intertwined together, they cannot be separated and must be lived and experienced together, there is only one way; to conquer others is to know power, to conquer yourself is to know the way [the return of Christ's social message; the communitarian church; the human_organism] -- the spiritual focus in all aspects of life [the 10C] is primary, the spiritual nature in each of us; cities thick with people need to be stirred; the begettal of physical society, a transformation from the ground up; truth planted, nurtured, harvested; conversion is a process.

Communitarian Alternative: Open_Notes 7

Spending a wage = spending your life -- voluntary simplicity, compassion [Janet Luhrs, author "The Simple Living Guide"] - simple and enriched -- to earn a living, to make a living vs. "a living" as an inalienable right given to each by God; to contribute to a living is the proper communitarian term - the common_wealth NOT private_wealth -- the church is NOT a business; the church is an organism of people; a people who contribute and distribute where needed - a for-profit corporation is a criminal entity; usury is against the Law of Almighty God, and is condemned in the Bible -- the SAGE set the conditions of life; this cannot be allowed to continue; the very existence of humanity is being threatened (the loss of our human-ity will result in the death of humanity), the corporate view is obscuring this fact; society's veneration without comprehension; thought required to lead and not be led; the commons must speak by its actions vs. the corporate state ["a distinct artifact of ruling classes, a professionalized monopoly of violence to assure the subjugation and exploitation of human by human" (-Murray Bookchin)] - 2 Cor 10:5 "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ", thus ensuring ultimate freedom and equality.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:26 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Wisdom: The Application Of Knowledge

The only spiritual life is one of service; there is a lack of *meaning* in the world; you cannot find meaning in a world that seeks and glorifies money and power, the wisdom of the world; THE REDUCTION OF HUMANITY [every evil work; the elimination of the public-Nation by the private-Nation-State/TNC's; the elimination of any compassion (the label of living) and charity (corporate profit means "care = burden"; the real burden on humanity is the SAGE-Corporate; the evil invasion of greed against our sanity) and any generosity] - these are MONSTERS in-every sense-of-the-word, barely Human, animalistic purveyors of a systemic that has murdered and continues to murder millions of people; they exist in a spiritual vacuum, sucking the life out of us !! - WE MUST KNOW AND ACT [Wisdom: the application of the knowledge] !! -- Ephesians 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly [exactly, accurately, diligently], not as fools, but as wise; Colossians 4:5 ** Walk in wisdom ** toward them that are without, redeeming [to make wise and sacred use of every opportunity for doing good] the time; James 3:17 But ** **the wisdom that is from above** ** is:

* first pure:

[pure - chaste - clear] 1) exciting reverence, venerable, sacred 2) pure from carnality, chaste, modest, immaculate, clean; -- [saints - Holy One] 1) most holy thing, a saint; -- [cherish] 1) to warm, keep warm 2) to cherish with tender love, to foster with tender care.

* then peaceable:

[peaceable] 1) relating to peace 2) peaceable, pacific, loving peace 3) bring peace with it, peaceful, salutary; -- [peace - one - rest - quietness] 1) a state of national tranquillity; exemption from the rage and havoc of war 2) peace between individuals, ie., harmony, discord 3) security, safety, prosperity, felicity, (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous) 4) of the Messiah's peace, the way that leads to peace (salvation) 5) of Christianity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God [SATAN'S IMPOSED "FEAR OF GOD"] 6) the blessed state of devout and upright Christians.

* gentle:

[gentle - patient - moderation] 1) seemingly suitable 2) equitable, fair, mild, gentle; -- [be like] 1) to be like.

* [and] easy to be intreated:

[easy to be intreated] 1) easily, obeying, compliant; -- [well - well done - good] 1) to be well off, fare well, prosper, acting well; -- [persuade - trust - obey - have confidence - believe - be confident] 1) persuade 1a) to persuade, ie., to induce one by words to believe 1b) to make friends of, to win one's favour, gain one's good will, or to seek to win one, strive to please one; to tranquillise 1c) to persuade unto ie., move or induce one to persuasion to do something 2) be persuaded 2a) to be persuaded, to suffer one's self to be persuaded; to be induced to believe: to have faith: in a thing; to believe; to be persuaded of a thing concerning a person 2b) to listen to, obey, yield to, comply with 3) to trust, have confidence, be confident.

* full of mercy:

[full] 1) full; in reference to persons, whose minds are as it were filled with thoughts and emotions, either good or bad; -- [mercy] 1) mercy: kindness or good will towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them 1a) of men towards men: to exercise the virtue of mercy, show one's self merciful 1b) of God towards men: in general providence; the mercy and clemency of God in providing and offering to men salvation by Christ 1c) the mercy of Christ, whereby at his return to judgement he will bless true Christians with eternal life.

* and good fruits:

[good works; working the Spirit (1 Cor 12:11); MINISTRATION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS] -- [good - good thing - that which is good - the thing which is good - well - benefit] 1) of good constitution or nature 2) useful, salutary 3) good, pleasant, agreeable, joyful, happy 4) excellent, distinguished 5) upright, honourable; -- [fruit] 1) fruit; the fruit of the trees, vines, of the fields; the fruit of one's loins, ie., his progeny, his posterity 2) that which originates or comes from something; an effect, result 2a) work, act, deed, of Christian character 2b) advantage, profit, utility 2c) praises, which are presented to God as a thank-offering 2d) to gather fruit (ie., a reaped harvest) into life eternal (as into a granary), is used in fig. discourse of those who by their labours have fitted souls to obtain eternal life.

* without partiality:

[without partiality] 1) undistinguished, unintelligible 2) without dubiousness, ambiguity or uncertainty; -- [doubt - judge - discern - contend - waver] 1) to separate, make a distinction, discriminate, to prefer 2) to learn by discrimination, to try, decide, to determine, give judgement, decide a dispute 3) to withdraw from one, desert 4) to separate one's self in a hostile spirit, to oppose, strive with dispute, contend 5) to be at variance with one's self, hesitate, doubt.

* and without hypocrisy:

[unfeigned - without dissimulation - without hypocrisy] 1) unfeigned, undisguised, sincere; -- [feign] 1) to take up another's statements in reference to what one has decided for one's self, ie., to reply, answer 2) to make answer (speak) on the stage, ie., to impersonate anyone, play a part 3) to simulate, feign, pretend.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:45 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Saturday, February 13, 2010

[Scott McLarty: Democracy for Humans!](#)

Democracy for Humans!

Fighting corporate power in the wake of the Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling

by Scott McLarty [article link](#)

Published on Saturday, February 13, 2010 by CommonDreams.org

Democracy and fair elections in the US are in grave danger. What are we going to do about it?

The Supreme Court's recent Citizens United ruling removed restrictions on the amount of money that corporations can use to campaign for their preferred candidates. The five justices who voted for the ruling endorsed the idea that corporations should enjoy the same constitutional rights as human beings.

Why is this ruling a threat to America?

Corporations are not human. They are legal creations. They don't eat, breathe the air, depend on health care, or do many of the other things that humans do. They exist to make a profit. Because of their wealth and size, corporations are far more powerful than humans.

The Citizens United ruling affirms the power of corporations to control the processes of regulation, taxation, and public policy, and to avoid accountability to the public.

For a hundred years, we've had laws limiting the power of corporations over our government, because government in a democracy exists to serve the people. Now that corporations can spend unlimited money to help candidates who serve their interests, politicians will more and more make decisions based on the demands of lobbyists rather than the people who elect them. Real health care reform? Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to curb global warming? Fair wages, benefits, safer workplaces? Forget about it. ...

What can we do to bring back democracy? ...

Corporate Power vs. Democracy

Are corporations evil? Should we hate them? A corporation is an association, authorized by a charter, for a specific purpose. Corporations are by nature neither good nor evil. They often perform necessary functions, such as manufacturing, services, and trade.

A business corporation should be accountable to the public, not just to major stockholders, CEOs, and profit margins. When it betrays the public trust or commits a serious crime, a corporation should have its charter revoked and be dissolved.

When Exxon-Mobil, Lockheed Martin, Goldman Sachs, General Electric, Halliburton, Blackwater, or Disney have overwhelming power to determine the decisions of elected officials, our freedoms, rights, and well-being are in danger.

When Wall Street firms insisted that Congress strike down regulations like the Glass-Steagall Act, their recklessness caused the recent economic crisis, with millions of lost homes and jobs. When they press Congress to reduce, privatize, or abolish successful safety-net programs like Social Security, they place millions of older Americans and others at risk of destitution.

When big-box chain stores like Wal-Mart are allowed to take over a town's economy, small businesses go under, Main Street falls into ruin, and minimum-wage no-benefit positions replace jobs with livable wages and good benefits.

When insurance companies can deny health coverage and medical treatment, people suffer and die.

When corporate polluters win exemptions from greenhouse gas emission laws, they endanger future generations.

When energy companies demanded control over oil resources in Iraq, the US went to war based on baseless claims about WMDs and other deceptions.

The Myth of Corporate Rights

A corporation is not human. A corporation is a thing. It's a legal fiction, subject to the definition in the corporation's charter and restrictions imposed by law.

... It's just as absurd to say that a corporation has 'rights.' When we say a company has the right to advertise its goods or services, what we really mean is that we recognize that advertising is part of the normal function of a business corporation, just as transportation is the normal function of a car.

Like a car without a driver, a corporation has no will of its own. Its actions are guided by CEOs and other managers, owners and stockholders, a board of directors, or some combination of these people. They profit through the corporation, by receiving salaries and bonuses or through their investments in the corporation. When those who control the corporation use it to break the law, abuse their power, or violate the corporation's own charter, then the corporate charter should be revoked -- just as the driver who violates traffic rules may lose the use of his or her car.

Corporations have become enormously powerful. Who benefits from this power? Obviously, the CEOs, owners, stockholders, etc. (Employees may work for a corporation, but they have no say in how it is run, except through the influence of independent unions -- which have become increasingly powerless in recent decades.)

What does it mean when a corporation can influence government to act on its behalf, even when such actions are harmful to the public or to its own employees? It means that the CEOs, owners, stockholders, etc. enjoy power far beyond what the rest of us possess as individual citizens.

Those who defend corporate personhood, corporate rights, and the Citizens Unlimited decision are arguing for an inequality that threatens the basis of our democracy. They support a new kind of aristocracy, an oligarchy of elite citizens who get their power from corporations.

CEOs, owners, stockholders, et al. already have the same constitutional rights as the rest of us. When they use their corporations, armed with the myth of corporate rights, to expand their power so much that they dominate political campaigns, legislation, and the public debate on important issues, then our democracy is doomed....

...unless We the People take back our democracy and our election system.

Where did Corporate Power Come From? ...

The End of Democracy? ...

... 'Moderate' Democrats and Republicans share a bipartisan addiction to corporate contributions and a dedication to the idea that government should primarily serve big business interests instead of the people they were elected to represent. In 2009, they made sure that any health care reform plan placed before Congress would protect insurance and pharmaceutical manufacturing companies and do as little as possible for people in need of medical treatment. They declared Medicare For All (single-payer national health care) "off the table" and sabotaged the public option.

These politicians shouldn't be called moderate. They're extremists who subscribe to an ideology of corporate power, profit, and privilege.

Media commentators and broadcasters like Rush Limbaugh have praised the ruling. Their goal is an America far different from the one envisioned by our Founding Fathers and Mothers and by all those who've fought for human rights, freedoms, and fairness for working people and those who are powerless. They've duped too many Americans into believing that what's good for insurance companies, Wall Street firms, defense contractors, and other behemoths is good for America.

"We the People" does not mean corporations. Unless we act now to defend the principle that free speech and other constitutional rights and protections belong solely to human beings, our democracy will be history.

More Information

* "Challenging Corporate Personhood: Corporations, the U.S. Constitution, and Democracy" Interview with [Jan Edwards](#) in Multinational Monitor magazine, October/November 2002

* Move To Amend (sign the petition) [home page](#)

* Democracy Unlimited of Humboldt County (DUHC) [home page](#)

If you need help with actions against corporate personhood or if you have ideas, contact DUHC at 707-269-0984

* Multinational Monitor [home page](#)

Scott McLarty is national media coordinator for the [Green Party](#) of the United States, which does not accept corporate contributions. He lives in Washington, DC.

CommonDreams [home page](#)

Multinational Monitor

A BIG Idea: A Minimum Income Guarantee

An Interview with Karl Widerquist [article link](#)

Karl Widerquist is a lecturer in politics in the School of Sociology, Politics and International Relations at the University of Reading in the United Kingdom. He serves on the coordinating committee of the U.S. Basic Income Guarantee Network (USBIG).

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:53 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Michael Parenti: What Do Empires Do?

What Do Empires Do?

by Michael Parenti [article link](#)

Published on Saturday, February 13, 2010 by CommonDreams.org

... But by the year 2000, everyone started talking about the United States as an empire and writing books with titles like Sorrows of Empire, Follies of Empire, Twilight of Empire, or Empire of Illusions--- all referring to the United States when they spoke of empire.

Even conservatives started using the word. Amazing. One could hear right-wing pundits announcing on U.S. television, "We're an empire, with all the responsibilities and opportunities of empire and we better get used to it"; and "We are the strongest nation in the world and have every right to act as such"---as if having the power gives U.S. leaders an inherent entitlement to exercise it upon others as they might wish. ...

... I define imperialism as follows: the process whereby the dominant investor interests in one country bring to bear their economic and military power upon another nation or region in order to expropriate its land, labor, natural resources, capital, and markets-in such a manner as to enrich the investor interests. In a word, empires do not just pursue "power for power's sake." There are real and enormous material interests at stake, fortunes to be made many times over.

So for centuries the ruling interests of Western Europe and later on North America and Japan went forth with their financiers---and when necessary their armies---to lay claim to most of planet Earth, including the labor of indigenous peoples, their markets, their incomes (through colonial taxation or debt control or other means), and the abundant treasures of their lands: their gold, silver, diamonds, copper, rum, molasses, hemp, flax, ebony, timber, sugar, tobacco, ivory, iron, tin, nickel, coal, cotton, corn, and more recently: uranium, manganese, titanium, bauxite, oil, and--say it again--oil. (Hardly a complete listing.)

Empires are enormously profitable for the dominant economic interests of the imperial nation but enormously costly to the people of the colonized country. In addition to suffering the pillage of their lands and natural resources, the people of these targeted countries are frequently killed in large numbers by the intruders.

This is another thing that empires do which too often goes unmentioned in the historical and political literature of countries like the United States, Britain, and France. Empires impoverish whole populations and kill lots and lots of innocent people. As I write this, President Obama and the national security state for which he works are waging two and a half wars (Iraq, Afghanistan, and northern Pakistan), and leveling military threats against Yemen, Iran, and, on a slow day, North Korea. Instead of sending medical and rescue aid to Haiti, Our Bomber sent in the Marines, the same Marines who engaged in years of mass murder in Haiti decades ago and supported more recent massacres by proxy forces.

The purpose of all this killing is to prevent alternative, independent, self-defining nations from emerging. So the empire uses its state power to gather private wealth for its investor class. And it uses its public wealth to shore up its state power and prevent other nations from self-developing.

Sooner or later this arrangement begins to wilt under the weight of its own contradictions. As the empire grows more menacing and more murderous toward others, it grows sick and impoverished within itself. ...

Michael Parenti's recent books include: Contrary Notions: The Michael Parenti Reader (City Lights); Democracy for the Few, 8th ed. (Wadsworth); The Assassination of Julius Caesar (New Press), Superpatriotism (City Lights), The Culture Struggle (Seven Stories Press), and God and His Demons (forthcoming). For further information, visit his [website](#).

CommonDreams [home page](#)

 [Share / Save](#)   

Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:47 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Public Cry Is A Whisper

WE ARE FIGHTING OURSELVES, OUR LEGITIMACY !! -- WE ARE SITUATED ON THE EDGE OF (IN)SANITY; GROUP CONTAGION, COLLECTIVE FRENZY [ie., consumption; corporate feeding frenzy] - BUSINESS IS DULL IN COMPARISON TO WAR AND HOLOCAUST, YET BUSINESS IS ** BARBARIC DISPOSSESSION UNEQUALED ** -- GLOBALIZATION IS A MUTANT FORM OF COLONIALISM [activist/author Arundhati Roy]; the corporate-agenda claims "globalization with a human face" [a face that is disfigured by evil; twisted by greed]; A FACE UNRECOGNIZABLE BY MOST; INHUMAN -- civil protest has been professionalized, labeled [NGO agendas; media]; THE "PUBLIC DEBATE" MUST BE DE-PROFESSIONALIZED; THE ONLY ANSWER IS A PUBLIC-COMMON ANSWER [vs. leave the world to us; it is too complicated for the public to understand; we are the experts, etc.] - leaving public debate to the experts is a convenient way for a privileged society to ignore the issues; it leads to an expert-anthem [Arundhati Roy], no longer a ** public cry ** vs. globalization [life is profit] !! - the public cry is a whisper, a whimper, most are in denial !! -- a common understanding needed [a social nurturing], a politics of resistance, opposition, voluntary simplicity, a slowing down; ** DISSENT ** [OUR ONLY WEAPON IS OUR REFUSAL], WE MUST WITHDRAW AND DISINVEST FROM THE CORPORATE AND RE-INVEST IN COMMUNITY !!



Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:42 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Friday, February 12, 2010

Secular Prophets: Indicant 7

Empire of the Sunset

by Randall Amster [article link](#)

Published on Friday, February 12, 2010 by CommonDreams.org

Sometimes, I really miss America -- or at least the idea of it. You know: that can-do spirit, streets paved with gold, champion of the tired and poor, purple mountains majesty, that sort of thing. Say what you will, and call it naïve, but the storybook values at the heart of America's erstwhile image are inspiring.

Like most who grew up here, I was steeped in the lore and legend of this place. Despite obvious flaws in the narrative (how exactly does one 'discover' land upon which others are living, anyway?) there existed a strong sense that at the end of the day some part of our cherished ideals would emerge in time to set things right. Principles like due process, free speech, the work ethic, checks and balances, equal opportunity, and the pursuit of happiness held meaning if only as a reminder that our collective lives stood for something and that our destinies were in our own hands. It may well have been an illusion all along, yet even the most cynical among us likely believed in the underlying ethos at some point in time.

Unfortunately, that **America -- even in its illusory state -- has ceased to exist**. We are no longer an abstract beacon of hope to the world, but rather a purveyor of concrete hellfire. We rain automated death from above and commit orchestrated theft from below. We export despair and import disdain. We've abandoned even keeping up the pretense of fair play and adherence to principle. We've become global pariahs and domestic piranhas. Awash in a sea of surfaces, distractions, and palliatives, we unsurprisingly have failed to notice that the sun has already started to set on our adolescent empire.

Indeed, by most measures, the U.S. is rapidly becoming a failed state. Educationally, economically, politically, culturally -- all of our national gauges are pointing in the wrong direction. We're moving down the list on health care, democratic governance, productivity, environmental protection, academic achievement, official transparency, incarceration rates, transportation, and public services. We're ruled by an increasingly emboldened elite class that rewrites the rules at will, increasingly represses dissent, and openly enriches itself at our expense. We hardly make anything on these shores, but still consume everything in sight. We have few public intellectuals of renown, yet are bombarded daily with the foibles of celebrities who are in many cases famous simply for being famous. Our food supply is tainted, our energy is unclean, and our water is drying up. And racism remains as deeply-rooted as ever.

It's not a pretty picture from inside the belly of the beast these days. But never fear, for America has a secret weapon at its disposal that will keep us in the driver's seat for a while longer. Our secret weapon, actually, isn't so secret: weapons. The days of guile, comity, and negotiation are over. Empires don't dicker, they simply take what they want. They don't ask permission or forge alliances, they make demands and extort loyalties under threat of repercussions. They don't cede oversight authority to any international community, or even feel constrained by their own laws and rules, but instead act by fiat and in flagrant disregard of treaty and protocol. Empires, in short, follow the empty logic of "might makes right."

The ruling elite in the U.S. have made it eminently clear that this is our prevailing strategy going forward. We will utilize brute force to retain our position as the global superpower even as we have lost our moral and cultural suasion. America's tenure as a fully imperialist power is barely over a century old, its position as a true superpower about half that, and its status as sole hegemon about half that still. In a mere few decades, we've gone from savior to enslaver, from bastion to bastards, from heroic to horrific. Whatever historical good will we may have accrued has been squandered in a frenzy of hubris and hatred.

Perhaps I'm being a bit obdurate here, so let me clarify things a bit. Empires that reach this point of no return, in which power subsumes principle, are essentially on their last legs. Legitimacy can be replaced by subjugation for a time, but it is always self-defeating in the end. While history is unequivocal about this, it's also true that the recorded annals have never seen an empire quite like the one we've created. By slowly and steadily insinuating ourselves economically and militarily into the affairs of nearly every nation on the planet, we've built an ingenious system in which recalcitrance is very nearly a form of suicide. If this empire falls, it threatens to take everyone with it in the process, thus perpetuating the unspoken but widely understood mantra: "You're either with us ... or else."

Consider the sheer totality of the U.S. military presence around the planet. Hundreds of bases are spread across every continent -- effectively functioning as sovereign satellites of American influence -- with a preponderance located in vanquished nations such as Germany, Japan, Iraq, and Afghanistan. These are now our chief exports: military bases, hardware, and soldiers. We've also weaponized space and created an automated execution network that circumnavigates the globe, bringing push-button "justice" to anyone we deem a viable target (including our own citizens). Now we're developing fully-functional robot soldiers to continue the dehumanization of warfare in our stead, which will serve our purpose of fostering submission through fear equally well whether they in fact work properly or not.

Domestically, the agenda has been set. The power elite have now "doubled down" on this strategy of maintaining supremacy through force. Military strategy documents point toward a future of perpetual warfare and relentless competition over dwindling resources, with the highest ideal of "national security" represented by our unmitigated capacity to impose our will on multiple fronts at once. Increasing episodes of disaster, such as in Haiti, will be used overtly as "Trojan horse" moments to expand our military footprint under the guise of humanitarianism. Our federal budgets will concretize all of this with escalating military expenditures coupled with frozen austerity in all other spheres. The military is sacrosanct and, moreover, is now the lone remaining chip to be played in the game of global conquest.

It certainly seems like a grim scenario, one that stands in stark contrast to the idyllic (albeit ersatz) America of our youth. It also begs us to consider what will become of young people growing up in tomorrow's America, devoid as it likely will be of even a redeeming ideological veneer. Will the future populace here be comprised of equal parts swaggering "ugly Americans" and withdrawn, apathetic technophiles? Will we have an America in which people either embrace our military superiority and martial character as a moral virtue on the one hand, or are constrained to immerse themselves in our cultural distractions as a refuge from the emerging security panopticon on the other? In other words, will those ensuing Americans face delimited choices that come down to either institutionalized anger or repressed angst?

I wonder if people living under the auspices of failing empires throughout history have felt similarly. The silver lining (there has to be one, right?) is that all previous empires have fallen and the sun still came up the next day. Indeed, as surely as anything else we can count on in this life, sunset is inevitably followed by sunrise. Whether anyone will be here to see that new day dawning is an open question, and one that we might consider as something of a cultural crucible at this point. Perhaps that apocryphal America from a bygone day can yet be resurrected, only this time for real and not merely as an ideal. In my mind's eye, I can envision a door opening up ahead even as the one behind us closes.

Randall Amster, J.D., Ph.D., teaches Peace Studies at [Prescott College](#) and serves as the Executive Director of the [Peace & Justice Studies Association](#). His most recent book is the co-edited volume [Building Cultures of Peace](#): Transdisciplinary Voices of Hope and Action (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009).

The Daily Bell [home page](#)

Becoming a Third World Country

by John Michael Greer [article link](#) [article link](#)

Silver Bear Cafe 02-11-10

The Silver Bear Cafe [home page](#)

The Archdruid Report [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:54 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

The Daily Bell: Power Elite

Power Elite [article link](#)

The term "power elite" traces to the writings of C. Wright Mills, including his 1956 book, The Power Elite. The concept posits wealthy and/or well connected families and individuals who seek to expand their wealth by applying and promoting [dominant social themes](#). Such themes may eventually develop into widely held archetypes or [memes](#).

Often such themes seem to originate with the United Nations, World Bank, World Trade Organization, World Health Organization or other international bodies that are receptive to influence by the power elite. The themes then are picked up and rebroadcast by the mainstream media. Thus, what may seem to be the work of an independent institutional staff may actually be the brainchild of the power elite.

Concepts such as bird flu, [Islamofascism](#) and peak oil are so extensively promoted that much of the public unquestioningly accepts their fearful premises and demand action. Those with the wherewithal to provide solutions - products, services and corporate offerings via public markets - may earn vast profits as a consequence.

There is little contemporary scholarly analysis of the concept of the power elite, but it corresponds roughly to what once was called "the money power."

There are a variety of theories as to the composition and character of the power elite. It sometimes is referred to ominously as the "Illuminati," the "black church" or the "black nobility." It is not necessary to confirm such characterizations to recognize that the action and influence of modern money power are pervasive.

In most conceptions, **the core of the power elite coalesces around the European and American banking dynasties and some elite, titled families**, or it may be characterized as a "sub-church" within the Roman Catholic, [Jewish](#) or other religion. [ref: MM Addendum 1]

In some conceptions, **the power elite includes members who claim to trace their ancestry to ancient times, even to Babylon and beyond**. This accords with the notion that members believe their pedigrees differentiate them from the "common herd." [ref: MM Addendum 2]

Signifiers of power elite activity include a disdain of free-markets and the persistent and uncritical promotion of a theme or meme to the exclusion of contrary evidence or argument.

The Daily Bell [home page](#)

MM Addendum 1 [web page](#) (widescreen)

MM Addendum 2 [web page](#) (widescreen)

MM Addendum 1 and 2 [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:36 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

The Daily Bell: Anti-State & Anti-War

Unlike Bush, The Bell is Anti-State & Anti-War

by Staff Report [article link](#)

Friday, February 12, 2010

"You've probably heard about the "Miss Me Yet?" billboard in Minnesota, featuring a picture of George W. Bush. According to Fox News, a "group of small business owners and individuals," obviously not fans of Barack Obama, paid for it. That's all well and good, and while I'm no fan of Barack Obama, I don't long for the presidency of George W. Bush. From a fiscal perspective, the Bush Administration was a disaster. Before you repeat the Dick Cheney talking point that most of the spending was for defense and two wars. Let me go ahead and tell you, that's not true. Bush was the biggest spender since Lyndon B. Johnson, dramatically increasing non-defense discretionary spending. Remember, he is a "compassionate conservative," which is apparently a nice term for "statist." Bush signed a new entitlement into law, his administration enacted the most regulations since Nixon ("we're all Keynesians now") and he backed the Wall Street bailout while telling us that he "abandoned free-market principles to save the free-market system." This is only the tip of the iceberg on his fiscal policies." - United Liberty

Dominant Social Theme: Revisiting Bush to make sense of it all.

Free-Market Analysis: We are returning to our article of yesterday regarding George Bush (Should US Voters Miss George Bush?) because we were surprised to find that some of our readers did not believe it was strong enough or that portions of it somehow constituted a defense (!) of the man. In fact, the article we have selected to excerpt above is not exactly a mainstream one (forgive us) but made approximately the same points we did. We were surprised to find it even took some of our tone and focus. There are obviously some general points about the Bush administration that would occur to almost any free-market thinker, so we are not surprised by the similarities.

You can read yesterday's Bell article here: [Should U.S. Voters Miss George Bush?](#)

And NOW - right here - we will state even more clearly than we did yesterday that those who write for the Bell find various policies of the Bush administration to be exceptionally odious and, not to put too fine a point on it, evil. Evil because when the administration could have done good (or at least less bad) it chose the path of war, destruction and oppression both at home and abroad - often in the name of a fictitious and cynical "security." It devalued the currency, brought ruin to the house of its citizens and generally did what it could to confuse the conversation of liberty and debase each and every program on which the republic had been built.

We hope that's clear enough.

Many will defend Bush by stating that he initiated many of his most destructive programs (including two wars) as a response to 9/11. But it is unfortunately obvious to anyone who studies the matter that the administration spent a great deal of energy covering up what happened on that terrible day - whatever it was - and even more energy making sure that those inclined to try to get to the bottom of 9/11 were never able to. We've written about this many times before as many others have and the only new point we have to add to the conversation is that sooner or later the truth will emerge - in all its ugliness - because the [Internet](#) simply will not let the issue die. Within the fullness of time therefore we expect the Bush administration to look even worse than it does now.

The point we were trying to make yesterday (and thought we did) was that his administration marked a watershed moment in the dialogue surrounding the state's normal oppressive nature. Like a Roman Caesar, Bush dramatically increased the power of the state and of its overt repressive nature. Until Bush, we would venture to say, the domestic American conversation (the popular one, anyway) revolved for the most part around varying degrees of freedom and citizens' rights - or lack thereof. BUSH ATTEMPTED TO CHANGE THE RHETORIC ITSELF. In doing so, the Bush's regime marked a further - and important - shattering of the American political system and cultural conversation.

Bush was perhaps the first American president since Abraham Lincoln (who jailed many who disagreed with him) to elevate state brutality including torture to an exalted level - as an ongoing necessity for increased domestic protection and security ETERNALLY. Additionally, of course, he waged several brutal wars overseas that killed and maimed thousands. But again, our other main point was that Bush is not given credit for the amount of damage he did - quite "cleverly" since many remain convinced he is a dope.

We recently received the following missive from Ron Paul's Campaign for Liberty: ...

... We hope that the Patriot legislation is not renewed. But in any event, the Bush administration was responsible for this heinous bill, just as it was generally for the various consolidations of power that took place during his long eight years in office. Why? Because the Bush family historically (along with others of a certain class) has reportedly and evidently served the interests of the [power elite](#), those few families and individuals whose goal it is, apparently, to create a worldwide, centralized bureaucracy and economy with a single currency and an EU-style, top-down, "democratic" leadership.

Yes, Bush and those close to him worked in service of these elites, in our estimation, and spent eight years doing what he could to erode one of the main stumbling blocks to further global consolidation - America itself and those republican red-state patriots whose guns and pickup trucks constitute a kind of "thin red line" warding off even more Draconian US fedgov (and international) oppression. This intention to whittle away at American culture was the proximate cause for the nutty, failed immigration bill (as we pointed out yesterday) that he tried to pass in his last year in office.

The Bell is anti-state and anti-war (other than for limited, potential instances of national/domestic defense) because free-markets flourish best when the state is minimized. Only free-markets with their competition and entrepreneurial fervor can lift a society up and guarantee increasing living standards for all, including better levels of health, etc. America and the West generally are very far from free-markets at this point, though we do believe that the Internet is change-maker that will gradually push the pendulum back toward freedom.

Conclusion: Americans shouldn't want Bush back because of the ruin he inflicted on the American economy and the two terrible wars he prosecuted, which have left an increasing legacy of militarism in America itself. But just as importantly, Americans shouldn't want him back because he attempted to change the fundamental American rhetoric of freedom to one featuring security and defense of the realm, including justifications of torture and international rendition. He was, as we pointed out yesterday, a kind of transformational president - consistently underestimated in our opinion -- and it is only thanks to the Internet that he may not remain one.

The Daily Bell [home page](#)

 Share /  Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:23 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Thursday, February 11, 2010

Janine R Wedel: Shadow Elite

Shadow Elite: How the World's New Power Brokers Undermine Democracy, Government, and the Free Market
by Janine R Wedel

Publisher Comments:

How the nation is really run, and how decisions are really made, keep changing. Today, with the border between government functions and private consultants and lobbyists more porous and indistinct than ever before, new kinds of cliques and networks are assuming power. This is a transformation that, until now, we have lacked the concepts to understand. In *Shadow Elite*, anthropologist Janine Wedel charts, for the first time, the new system of power and influence that arose with the twenty-first century. At its apex are players and networks loyal only to their own. They relax government rules of accountability as well as business codes of competition, undermining government, free markets, and democracy itself.

The drive to privatize and deregulate, and the proliferation of complex technologies, have created an environment for players who redefine themselves as state or private, depending on the opportunities. From the manipulators who merged state and private power in the ruins of the Soviet empire to those who pushed us into a misguided war in Iraq, to those now playing at the margins of America's increasingly privatized foreign policy, *Shadow Elite* explains the spread of a new species in the ecosystem of public policy. Profoundly original, it speaks to theories of democracy, international relations, and the state, and will no doubt spark controversy.

Review:

"Using her expertise in Eastern European communist governments, author and public policy professor Wedel (*Collision and Collusion*) has pulled together a shocking expose of those dismantling U.S. democracy from the inside. Labeling the new breed of U.S. political operators 'flexions,' she finds individual roles as lobbyists, government insiders or elected officials converging into a single network 'snaking through official and private organizations, creating a loop that is closed to democratic processes.' Wedel shows how a core group of flexions (neo-conservative cold-warrior Richard Perle, retired four-star army general Barry R. McCaffrey, Obama financial advisor Larry Summers, etc.) have risen to power on an unprecedented confluence of four transformational 20th and 21st century developments: government outsourcing and deregulation, the end of the Cold War, the growth of information technologies, and 'the embrace of "truthiness." By wearing several hats simultaneously (think tanker, retired military or government official, corporate representative, 'objective' expert), Wedel shows how a flexion can gain extraordinary insider knowledge and influence in order to custom-tailor a version of the 'truth' benefitting the highest bidder. In this way, they not only 'co-opt public policy agendas' but 'craft policy with their benefactors' purposes in mind.' This fascinating, authoritative wake-up call should satisfy any American who wants a handle on the republic's most successful agents of corruption." Publishers Weekly (Starred Review) (Copyright Reed Business Information, Inc.)

Synopsis:

Many people today feel that they're swimming in a sea of corruption. Who is really in charge? Why do the same people reappear under various professional identities, pressing a suspect agenda in one influential venue after another? According to award-winning public policy expert Janine Wedel, these are the shadow elite, and they are both powerful and dangerous.

In *Shadow Elite*, Wedel teaches us to recognize and understand how this new group blurs and erases the boundaries between government, private, and nonprofit organizations--all to their own benefit. The shadow elite ultimately answer only to each other. They can be found lurking behind the scenes of Iran-Contra, Blackwater, and the scandal of Harvard economists in post-Soviet Russia--and they are steadily gaining power. Profoundly original, *Shadow Elite* gives us the tools that we need to fight this disturbing, destructive, and antidemocratic trend.

Powell's Books [review link](#)

Shadow Elite: How the World's New Power Brokers Are Upending Our Democracy

By Janine Wedel, AlterNet

Posted on February 4, 2010, Printed on February 11, 2010

Wedel argues in her new book that a group of corrupted elites are destroying the principles that define modern states, free markets and democracy itself.

AlterNet Book Review [article link](#) [print](#)

AlterNet [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:30 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Paul B. Farrell: Prepare For An Apocalyptic Anarchy](#)

How to invest for a global-debt-bomb explosion

Prepare for an apocalyptic anarchy ending Wall Street's toxic capitalism

By Paul B. Farrell, MarketWatch [article link](#) [print](#)

Feb. 9, 2010, 12:01 a.m. EST

Wake up investors. Are you prepared for the economic anarchy coming after a global-debt time bomb explodes? Are you thinking outside the box? Investing differently? Act now -- tomorrow will be too late.

Start by looking past the endless cable skirmishes between Rush, Glenn, Bill and Shawn versus Harry, Nancy, Ben and Barack. Look way past the insurgency bonding Sarah and her diehard Tea Party revolutionaries with Ron Paul's Neo-Reaganite ideologues, Fat-Cat Bankers and the Party of No, all planning a massive frontal assault on the 2010 elections, hell-bent on destroying the presidency. All that's the sideshow.

Europe's debt woes won't recede

European stocks managed to look somewhere other than Greece, Spain and Portugal early Monday, but don't bet on that lasting.

The Big One is coming soon, bigger than the 2000 dot-com crash and the 2008 subprime credit meltdown combined. A huge market blowout. And as Bloomberg-BusinessWeek predicts: "The results won't be pretty for investors or elected officials."

After the global-debt bomb explodes don't expect a typical bear correction followed by a new bull. Wall Street's toxic pseudo-capitalism is imploding. Be prepared for a massive meltdown. Yes, already the third major bubble-bust of the 21st century, triggered once again by Wall Street's out-of-control Fat Cat Bankers. And it's dead ahead.

Can your family survive in the anarchy after the debt bomb explodes?

America's already descending into economic anarchy. We're all trapped in a historic economic supercycle, a turning point that must bleed through a no-man's land of lawless self-destructive anarchy before a neo-capitalistic world can re-emerge. Investors tell me they "feel" it at a deep level, "know" it's happening. They keep asking: "What's the best investment strategy to prepare now?"

This is no joke, folks. Are you prepared? Or preparing? Will your family survive in a post-apocalyptic world, when anarchy is rampant in America? Look at Washington, Wall Street and Corporate America today. You know it's already begun.

You are witnessing a fundamental breakdown of the American dream, a systemic breakdown of our democracy and our capitalism, a breakdown driven by the blind insatiable greed of Wall Street: Dysfunctional government, insane markets, economy on the brink. Multiply that many times over and see a world in total disarray. Ignore it now, tomorrow will be too late.

Not a war about ideology, but an economic game-changer

This is a war to control 299 million American taxpayers. A war waged by the "Happy Conspiracy" Jack Bogle profiled in his 2004 "Battle for the Soul of Capitalism," a war machine of Fat Cat Bankers, CEOs, 42,000 mercenary lobbyists and a Congress held hostage to unlimited campaign donations. Their conspiracy has been waging this war against Americans for decades, long before the Supreme Court exposed their dirty secret.

Yes, your enemy is that "Happy Conspiracy." It has degraded into a pseudo-capitalism with no conscience, no sense of the public good, hell-bent on controlling America's mind, your money and the global markets for its own selfish ends. And eventually it will trigger the game-changing global-debt bomb, the third global meltdown of the century that finally ignites the Great Depression II, plunging us into an era of anarchy.

Investors keep asking: "If it is coming, how do I invest? Buy gold? Commodities? Hedge? Short trading? TIPS? Hoard cash? Buy and hold? Lazy Portfolios?" What if the Dow sinks below 5,000? Maybe the worst-case scenario recently predicted by Bob Prechter: A deeper plunge to the 1,000 range? Imagine a global depression, a bear market dragging on for decades: "How do I protect my family? Can I ever retire? What do I invest in? How can anyone prepare?"

How America's two classes are preparing for a descent into anarchy

As America descends into anarchy your family's survival and your ability to retire will depend on which of America's two economic classes you belong to out of our total of roughly 300 million citizens:

"Average Joe & Jane" Americans: You're one of 299 million Main Street Americans. Average income is \$50,000, only 10% of the average bonuses paid to Wall Street's Fat-Cat Bankers. Or you're already one of America's 20% underemployed ... maybe on food stamps ... maybe among the 47 million with no medical insurance ... your retirement assets are about \$50,000, a year's survival. And you are "mad-as-hell" you're not working "inside" the "Happy Conspiracy."

"Happy Conspiracy" Insiders: You're one of the lucky million or so elite Insiders in the "Happy Conspiracy." You may work for a Fat-Cat Bank that American taxpayers bailed out last year so you pocketed a 2009 bonus gift of somewhere between \$600,000 and \$10 million. Maybe you're a Corporate American CEO. Maybe you're on the Forbes 400 list. Or you're a U.S. Senator.

Here's how these savvy Insiders are preparing: In his 2008 best-seller, "Wealth, War and Wisdom," hedge fund manager Barton Biggs, a highly respected Insider in the "Happy Conspiracy," advised rich insiders to expect the "possibility of a breakdown of the civilized infrastructure."

His advice: Make tons of money. Buy an isolated farm in the mountains. Protect family against the barbarians: "Your safe haven must be self-sufficient and capable of growing some kind of food ... It should be well-stocked with seed, fertilizer, canned food, wine, medicine, clothes, etc. Think Swiss Family Robinson."

How Wall Street insiders will treat Main Street in 'The Anarchy'

And when the barbarians do come, firing "a few rounds over the approaching brigands' heads would probably be a compelling persuader that there are easier farms to pillage." Imagine a scene like Port-au-Prince after the quake. Biggs is no radical anarchist, he's an establishment Insider, a great guy. We both arrived at Morgan Stanley about the same time. Biggs remained 30 years, was Morgan's chief global strategist. Ten times Institutional Investor magazine put him on Wall Street's "All-America Research Team."

True, he did hedge his prediction of the coming anarchy. His odds: 1 in 10. But in an early 2009 Newsweek article, "A Generation of Destruction: Throwing money at the problem and propping up greedy banks is like trying to put out a fire by pouring gasoline on it," Biggs teased us with a bleak scenario: "Great cycles of wealth creation have usually lasted about two generations, or 60 years. Inevitably, unequal riches corrupt and create envy, and they are always followed by a generation of enormous wealth destruction."

Warning: By vastly understating the risks while his Insiders prepare for the coming anarchy, Biggs is quietly misleading and disarming the rest of America.

The truth is Insiders in the "Happy Conspiracy" elite will follow Biggs' ultra-simple investment strategy: Make massive amounts of money fast using short-term strategies, spout lip service about the "public good." But always act in your own self-interests first, preparing for when anarchy spreads worldwide in an economic pandemic.

How can America's 299 million 'second-class citizens' invest for anarchy?

So what can the average Joe and Jane, the other 299 million Americans do? Warning: In anarchy, nobody knows. Period. The only possible strategy: "Think Swiss Family Robinson." Stockpile like a "Happy Conspiracy Insider."

Many still challenge us about proven strategies like buy and hold, Modern Portfolio Theory, Lazy Portfolios. Unfortunately, they all need a real democracy driven by honest, transparent capitalism to function effectively. They can't function in anarchy.

And Wall Street's already lapsed into a toxic pseudo-capitalism, using it to manipulate Main Street America. Eventually that mindset will force Main Street Americans to misuse the same dark "Swiss Family Robinson" tactics as the Insiders in order to survive the coming anarchy.

What's our alternative? A new American Revolution

But wait, wait, I hear you asking loudly: There must be an alternative to this dark descent into anarchy, to the loss of everything that made America the greatest nation in history?

Yes there is an alternative. **Out of the ashes of anarchy must come a Second American Revolution.** But unfortunately nothing will happen until a great crisis awakens America ... shocks the conscience of the masses ... we are "asleep" ... only a seismic, systemic shock will trigger the necessary revolution.

The future of our economy and indeed our nation demands another political revolution. We must take back our democracy and capitalism from a government run by Wall Street and its "Happy Conspiracy" ... their toxic self-serving power hold must be broken and, if not, a rising new conspiracy of China, India, oil-sovereignties and asset-rich nations will replace our homegrown "Happy Conspiracy" as it eventually goes down in the flames of anarchy.

Sadly, that's the future many of us realists see ahead for America.

Copyright © 2010 MarketWatch, Inc. All rights reserved.

Wealthy "Insiders" Are Preparing for Collapse

BackWoods Survival Blog [blog link](#)

BackWoods Survival Blog [home page](#)

20 reasons Global Debt Time Bomb explodes soon

Commentary: Which trigger will ignite the Great Depression II?

by PAUL B. FARRELL [article link](#) [print](#)

Feb. 2, 2010

MarketWatch [front page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:16 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

[Finian Cunningham: Descent Into Barbarism](#)

Descent Into Barbarism:

The US and NATO Wage War on the World

By Finian Cunningham [article link](#)

February 09, 2010 "Information Clearing House"

The argument is won: capitalism as an effective system to organise society and provide for human needs has expired. The evidence is conclusive. Trillions of dollars to kickstart the economy in the US and Europe may have given an ephemeral lease of life to the financial class to spin the casino wheel once again, but it is more apparent by the day that the tentative “recovery” has spluttered to a standstill. Gridlocked by unprecedented levels of personal and national debts, the engine of production – the real economy – is in a state of rigor mortis.

This collapse has been a long time in the making. Decades of easy credit was up to now a way for the ruling class – government, corporations, financial institutions – to let the majority of workers subsidise the chronic loss in their livelihoods, which have been drained since the mid-1970s by the oligarchy’s self-aggrandisement from wage cutting, regressive taxation and public spending cuts. The political class – whether liberal or conservative, right or left – have facilitated this giant wealth-siphoning process.

However, the point is that the economic system is now objectively shown to be moribund. And it is impossible for so-called mainstream politicians to think of any other way of doing business. They are ideologically blind. Recall former British Prime

Minister Margaret Thatcher’s arrogant assertion: “There is no alternative”. Likewise, US President Barack Obama insists on throwing billions more dollars at the banks and financiers on Wall Street. But that won’t kickstart an economy in which millions of workers are without jobs and homes or who are on crumbly wages and up to their necks in debt. The profit system has hit an historic dead-end and this gridlock is a result of deep trends to do with the decline in capitalism as a mode of social production (falling wages and profits and the concomitant explosion in financial speculation and debts).

Widespread poverty and human misery is now seen on a massive scale in the so-called developed world. Some 40 million Americans, for example, are subsisting on food stamps. The distinction between “developed” and “developing” economies (always a myth anyway) is blurred. The ranks of the world’s long-suffering poor are swelled with dispossessed blue and white-collar workers and their families from across the US and Europe. Together more than ever, they stand shut out from those gated havens of obscene wealth for a global minority.

Similar historic junctures have been witnessed before when capitalism floundered from its inexorable tendency to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. Disturbingly, the release valve for the system and its bankruptcy has always been war. Death and destruction is the lender of last resort to an economic system that – despite itself – inevitably polarises wealth to an unworkable degree. The First and Second World Wars – claiming more than 70 million lives over a period of less than 10 years – were effectively the ultimate, grotesque bailouts.

In our time, war, it seems, has already begun. **The US oligarchy and its NATO allies are waging a veritable war on the world:** killing, disappearing and incarcerating millions of civilians in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan – a war that is expanding into Yemen, Somalia and the rest of the Horn of Africa, with the militarisation of sea lanes and oceans (see Chossudovsky, Globalresearch.ca) and the setting up of “forward projecting” military and missile bases in every continent

(see Rozoff, ditto). **On top of ordinary poverty and misery, the world is truly seeing another historic descent into barbarism.** Given this war-mongering dynamic, the growing US antagonism with Iran, Russia and China is far from an idle threat. It is the logical next step for a deeply illogical economic system.

But history is not inevitable. We are not necessarily programmed to repeat its horrors. A combination of global communications among citizens and political and social consciousness may be enough to prevent a military conflagration and overthrow the misrule of the oligarchy. What is needed is a) a widening of the recognition that capitalism as a system of social production is finished; and b) the case has to be confidently made that an alternative is very possible. That alternative is socialism (the subject of a further article). To those who remain skeptical, they should bear in mind the stark choice that Rosa Luxemburg foresaw for humanity: that is, socialism or barbarism. And we already have the latter.

finian.cunningham@gmail.com
Information Clearing House [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:25 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Robert C. Hinkley: An Aristocracy Of Corporations

The Best Interests of the Corporation

by Robert C. Hinkley [article link](#)

Published on Tuesday, August 18, 2009 by CommonDreams.org

Every day legal corporate behavior causes much more damage to the commons than corporate illegal behavior. Electricity generators do not break the law when they emit billions of tons of carbon into the atmosphere every year warming the Earth to dangerous levels. No law is broken when automobile manufacturers put out millions of vehicles that contribute to the same problem. Tobacco companies do not break the law when their products kill nearly 5 million people a year. Consumer goods companies are within the law when they buy from third world suppliers who operate sweatshops and use child labor. Employers operate within the law when they pay the minimum, but not a living wage. Manufacturers do not break the law when they threaten communities or leave them for dead when they move their operations overseas.

The problem is not that every once in a while corporation accidentally does something that harms the public interest. Corporate abuse of the commons is a daily ongoing event. At least in theory, those that direct the company have the power to make it stop. It continues as the result of conscious decisions made by company managers.

Think about it. If all modern corporations were good citizens, there would be no corporate abuse of the commons. As corporate damage to the public interest became evident, the directors of the company would simply close or modify the company's operations to eliminate the behavior or product that was causing the damage. ...

Greed may cause a few unscrupulous managers to steal from their companies, but it does not cause directors to uniformly cause their companies to continue harming the public interest. At best it is a minor factor in keeping big companies from choosing the good citizen option. If corporate abuse of the commons can be traced back to an emotion (which I don't think it can), it is not greed. It is fear.

Director's duties

The question for directors when their company is discovered to be harming the public interest becomes what are they going to do? Despite the fact that all companies these days want to claim the mantle of being a "good citizen", the decision before them now is not that simple.

Directors are answerable to shareholders. They are expected to manage in a manner that fulfills the investors' expectations. The corporate law ensures this by imposing a legal duty on directors to "act in the best interests of the corporation".

This duty has two parts. First, directors have an obligation to manage the company in a way that optimizes shareholder value by making money. Secondly, directors have a duty to protect the company when its survival is threatened. Together, these duties add up to a duty to protect and enhance shareholder value.

This duty is not just words. It is legally enforceable. Shareholders are entitled to bring a lawsuit against directors if they think the directors have not acted in their company's best interests. Such lawsuits can result in directors becoming personally liable to shareholders for losses the shareholders incur. It is this part of the corporate law (not some human emotion) that is the source of all continual corporate abuse of the public interest.

Rights and duties

When companies don't stop on their own, it is government's job to make them stop. This is achieved by new laws being adopted that effectively prohibit the offensive behavior. If government doesn't enact such laws, the status quo is preserved and the anti-social behavior (and the damage that comes with it) can continue.

When government is about to change the law in a way that threatens corporate profitability, modern companies can take the good citizen option and acquiesce or they can take the political option and fight to preserve the status quo. The good citizen option is about fulfilling the duties of a citizen. The political option is about using the rights of a citizen to influence government and preserve the company's existing freedom to harm the public interest. ...

It is relatively easy to pass laws keeping individuals from engaging in the abuse in the future. Individuals generally don't defend their anti-social behavior before national or local legislatures arguing it should be allowed to continue.

For big corporations on the other hand, the situation is different. Their only purpose is to pursue financial gain. If they are only achieving this goal by damaging the public interest, they have an interest in being allowed to continue. Faced with huge costs and risks (and possibly no obvious alternative), this interest can be compelling.

In this situation, being a good citizen and passively accepting new regulation for the benefit of the public interest is not really an option. The company's behavior up to now has been perfectly legal. Its logical course of action is to try to preserve the status quo-use its considerable political might to keep government from cutting off its ability to harm the public interest. In this, they have become remarkably successful.

Democracy at work

Some will say that the inability of government to pass new laws protecting the commons is simply democracy at work. They will argue that freedom should not be infringed upon until a majority of the people's elected representatives determine that a new law is necessary. On its face, this argument has some appeal. However, it doesn't take much to scratch beneath its surface and see how flawed it is.

The extent of the destruction is not in doubt. Our planet is being destroyed. Millions of people are being killed. Tens of millions are having their human rights violated. Hundreds of millions are being treated without dignity. Every year more of our communities are being used and left for dead.

While it is true that the liberal democracy was designed to be weak in its ability to impinge on personal freedom, it was not supposed to be so weak as to not be able to protect the public interest altogether. The very purpose of government is to prevent abuses of this nature from happening. If government is incapable of passing laws that put to an end destruction of these magnitudes, then we must ask ourselves "what good is it?" ...

... Our government of the people, by the people and for the people has become a government of the corporations, by the corporations and for the corporations. In all important matters the economy and the interests of big business come first. This has occurred without the people (for whose benefit government was designed) even recognizing it let alone agreeing to it.

It is nothing short of a travesty that the people's elected representatives have been converted to become the representatives of big business. **We are now ruled by an aristocracy of corporations.**

Conclusion

In a liberal democracy everything is legal until a validly enacted law makes it illegal. This leaves the public interest exposed to corporate behavior that is legal but harmful and immoral. The corporate law dictates that directors of a company found legally harming the public interest should put the company's interests above even the public interest. As a consequence, companies exercise their rights of citizenship to continue avoiding its obligations. The public interest remains exposed and the damage mounts up.

The question is what can be done about it? Fundamentally, there are only two answers. Either government must be strengthened to give it more power to rein in corporate abuse of the commons or the law that requires the modern corporation to go on wantonly harming the public interest must be changed.

© 2009 Robert C. Hinkley

Robert C. Hinkley is a corporate lawyer and former partner in one of America's largest law firms. He now lives in Sydney, Australia. "The Commons Exposed" is a excerpt from his new book "Corporate Citizenship: A Path Towards Eliminating Corporate Abuse of the Public Interest". Those interested in obtaining a copy of Corporate Citizenship can contact him on rbrthinkley@gmail.com.

The Case Against Corporate Speech

by Ralph Nader and Robert Weissman [article link](#)

Published on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 by the Wall Street Journal

CommonDreams [home page](#)

Join the movement. For the greater good.



Posted by mammonmessiah at [8:52 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

[Paul Joseph Watson: Subversive Activities Registration Act](#)

Think Government Is Corrupt? You May Face 10 Years In Jail

South Carolina forces “subversives” to register with the authorities or do hard time

by Paul Joseph Watson [article link](#)

Global Research, February 9, 2010

Prison Planet - 2010-02-08

Subversives who think government is corrupt and should be controlled by the people face 10 years in prison and a \$25,000 dollar fine if they fail to register with authorities in South Carolina, in another chilling example of how free speech and dissent is being criminalized in America.

The state’s “[Subversive Activities Registration Act](#)” is now officially on the books and mandates that “Every member of a subversive organization, or an organization subject to foreign control, every foreign agent and every person who advocates, teaches, advises or practices the duty, necessity or propriety of controlling, conducting, seizing or overthrowing the government of the United States ... shall register with the Secretary of State.”

Of course, the right to overthrow a government that has become corrupt, abusive and completely unrepresentative of its electorate is enshrined in the Declaration of Independence – that’s how America came to be a Republic in the first place –

advocating or teaching that the people should “control” the government via their elected representatives is a basic function of a democratic society, but this law effectively makes it a terrorist offense.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness,” states the Declaration of Independence.

Under the sweeping terms of the law, members of tax protest organizations, the Tea Party movement and the States’ Rights movement based in South Carolina are all domestic terrorists if they fail to register their dissent with the authorities.

It is important to stress that the notion this law somehow only applies to “Islamic terrorists” is completely at odds with the fact that federal and state authorities now consider the main terror threat to be from informed American citizens exercising their constitutional rights in opposition to the big government agenda they are being subjected to.

As we saw with the [MIAC report](#) and a plethora of similar training manuals which were leaked over the last decade, police are being trained that libertarians, gun owners, Ron Paul supporters and anyone who is mildly political is a domestic extremist and a potential terrorist – these people are the real target of the subversives list in South Carolina.

The infamous Phoenix Federal Bureau of Investigation manual ([page one](#), [page two](#)) produced in association with the Joint Terrorism Task Force listed “defenders of the U.S. constitution” and “lone individuals” as terrorists. Will anyone in South Carolina who defends the Constitution, the very bedrock of what America stands for, have to register with the authorities unless they want to be locked up for a decade?

Of course, since nobody is going to register as a “subversive” with South Carolina authorities, their failure to “comply” with the regulation will later be used against them as a means of eliciting criminal charges, in what represents a clear end run around the First Amendment.

The government isn’t going to just come out all guns blazing and ban free speech, they are simply going to make anyone who refuses to register for permission a criminal for failing to adhere to a separate mandate.

Just like people in places such as New York and Chicago were told that they had to get a license to purchase a gun – at first the process was a mere inconvenience but now the licensing process means they have to jump through 200 flaming hoops and the second amendment has effectively been outlawed in these cities.

They won’t hesitate to pull the same tricks with the First Amendment, and it’s already happening with calls to [license Internet users](#) and force them to get government permission to run a website.

Paul Joseph Watson is a frequent contributor to Global Research.
Global Research [Articles](#) by Paul Joseph Watson

Global Research [home page](#)
Prison Planet [home page](#)

Internet Censorship Alert!

Alex Jones exposes agenda to ‘blacklist’ dissenting sites and license users

Aaron Dykes & Alex Jones [article link](#)

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Prison Planet.com

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:04 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Subversive Activities Registration Act

South Carolina Code of Laws

(Unannotated)

Current through the end of the 2009 Session [web page](#)

DISCLAIMER

The South Carolina Legislative Council is offering access to the unannotated South Carolina Code of Laws on the Internet as a service to the public. The unannotated South Carolina Code on the General Assembly's website is now current through the 2009 session. The unannotated South Carolina Code, consisting only of Code text and numbering, may be copied from this website at the reader's expense and effort without need for permission.

The Legislative Council is unable to assist users of this service with legal questions. Also, legislative staff cannot respond to requests for legal advice or the application of the law to specific facts. Therefore, to understand and protect your legal rights, you should consult your own private lawyer regarding all legal questions.

While every effort was made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the unannotated South Carolina Code available on the South

Carolina General Assembly's website, the unannotated South Carolina Code is not official, and the state agencies preparing this website and the General Assembly are not responsible for any errors or omissions which may occur in these files. Only the current published volumes of the South Carolina Code of Laws Annotated and any pertinent acts and joint resolutions contain the official version.

Please note that the Legislative Council is not able to respond to individual inquiries regarding research or the features, format, or use of this website. However, you may notify Legislative Printing, Information and Technology Systems at LPITS@scstatehouse.gov regarding any apparent errors or omissions in content of Code sections on this website, in which case LPITS will relay the information to appropriate staff members of the South Carolina Legislative Council for investigation.

Title 23 - Law Enforcement and Public Safety

CHAPTER 29.

SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES REGISTRATION ACT

SECTION 23-29-10. Short title.

This chapter may be cited as the "Subversive Activities Registration Act."

SECTION 23-29-20. Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter the following words, phrases and terms are defined as follows:

(1) "Subversive organization" means every corporation, society, association, camp, group, bund, political party, assembly, body or organization, composed of two or more persons, which directly or indirectly advocates, advises, teaches or practices the duty, necessity or propriety of controlling, conducting, seizing or overthrowing the government of the United States, of this State or of any political subdivision thereof by force or violence or other unlawful means;

(2) "Organization subject to foreign control" means every corporation, society, association, camp, group, bund, political party, assembly, body or other organization, composed of two or more persons, which comes within either of the following:

(a) it solicits or accepts financial contributions, loans or support of any kind directly or indirectly from, or is affiliated directly or indirectly with, a foreign government or a political subdivision thereof, an agent, agency or instrumentality of a foreign government or political subdivision thereof, a political party in a foreign country or an international political organization or

(b) its policies, or any of them, are determined by or at the suggestion of, or in collaboration with, a foreign government or political subdivision thereof, an agent, agency or instrumentality of a foreign government or a political subdivision thereof, a political party in a foreign country or an international political organization;

(3) "Foreign agent" means any person whose actions, or any of them, are determined by or at the suggestion of, or in collaboration with, a foreign government or political subdivision thereof, an instrumentality or agency of a foreign government or political subdivision thereof, a political party in a foreign country or an international political organization; and

(4) "Business" includes, but is not limited to, speaking engagements.

SECTION 23-29-30. Effect on freedom of press or speech.

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize, require or establish censorship or to limit in any way or infringe upon freedom of the press or of speech as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and no regulation shall be promulgated hereunder having that effect.

SECTION 23-29-40. Organizations exempt from application of chapter.

The terms of this chapter do not apply to any labor union or religious, fraternal or patriotic organization, society or association, or their members, whose objectives and aims do not contemplate the overthrow of the government of the United States, of this State or of any political subdivision thereof by force or violence or other unlawful means.

SECTION 23-29-50. Registration by subversive and foreign-controlled organizations.

Every subversive organization and organization subject to foreign control shall register with the Secretary of State on forms prescribed by him within thirty days after coming into existence in this State.

SECTION 23-29-60. Registration of members of subversive and foreign-controlled organizations.

Every member of a subversive organization, or an organization subject to foreign control, every foreign agent and every person who advocates, teaches, advises or practices the duty, necessity or propriety of controlling, conducting, seizing or overthrowing the government of the United States, of this State or of any political subdivision thereof by force or violence or other unlawful means, who resides, transacts any business or attempts to influence political action in this State, shall register with the Secretary of State on the forms and at the times prescribed by him.

SECTION 23-29-70. Forms and schedule for filing information.

Every organization or person coming within the provisions of this chapter shall file with the Secretary of State all information which he may request, on the forms and at the times he may prescribe.

SECTION 23-29-80. Promulgation of rules and regulations.

The Secretary of State may adopt and promulgate any rules and regulations, not inconsistent with the terms of this chapter, which may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter and may alter or repeal such rules and regulations.

SECTION 23-29-90. Penalties.

Any organization or person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not more than twenty-five thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more than ten years, or by both fine and imprisonment.

informationliberation

No joke: South Carolina now requires 'subversives' to register

Article posted Feb 08 2010, 11:30 PM [article link](#)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBVERSIVE AGENT FORM

Filing Fee-\$5.00

Name of Subversive Organization _____

Name of Chief Agent of Organization _____

Address of Chief Agent

Check the appropriate box.

Do you or your organization directly or indirectly advocate, advise, teach or practice the duty or necessity of controlling, seizing or overthrowing the government of the United States, the state of South Carolina or any political division thereof?

☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, please outline the fundamental beliefs. If applicable, attach a copy of the bylaws or minutes of meetings from the last year.

Please name all other members of the organization located in South Carolina. If the space on this form is not sufficient, please attach additional pages referring to this section.

Signature of Chief Agent Date

Filing Instructions

- Subversive Agent Form (filed in duplicate)
- \$5.00 made payable to the South Carolina Secretary of State
- Self-Addressed, Stamped Return Envelope
- Return all documents to: South Carolina Secretary of State's Office

Attn: Corporate Filings

P.O. Box 11350

Columbia, SC 29211

SUBVERSIVE AGENT FORM [.pdf application](#) (courtesy FitsNews)

FitsNews [home page](#)

informationliberation [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [8:55 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Monday, February 8, 2010

Our Systemic Is Self-Defining

We are a "product" of the environment we surround ourselves with; corporate media environment = perception deception !! -- we are here to change the world, not to be changed *again* by it, or did we really attempt to change [conscientious objection; withdrawal] ?? -- Jesus the Christ is King, MAJESTIC in *all* things !! - most Christ-ians [those who hold, carry (take) Christ's Name, the Anointed] are tarnishing the Majesty of Christ; we are spotted, polluted by this world [we have taken God's name in vain; we are worshipping in vain]; we are grieving the Spirit of God, and weakening and destroying the spirit of nature [anima mundi; the planetary soul] - we must strive for, attain and maintain a ** GOD-LEVEL RELATIONSHIP ** [being and doing] in-and-with *all* things !! - we must reject "the claim" of-and-by ourselves and others !! - the "pomp" of society, the "private ownership of the means of production" must become "common-wealth" of the community(-ies) !! - a genuine, organic/natural existence [AT-ONE-MENT] vs. the artificially contrived, corporate existence; GOD IS LIFE !! -- our "denominated" selfishness [monetary and sect] must cease, or we will; OUR SYSTEMIC-MURDER WILL MURDER US [the wicked taken in their own evil; THOU SHALT NOT MURDER] !!

"Reason" has become repressive vs. Isa 1:18 "Come now, let us reason together, saith the LORD" ... domination and vested-interest induce error and sin [ignorance of God] -- vested value-judgements [philosophical system; value/ethic systemic; creed] or value-free(-dom); what is our definition of "value" ?? [WE LIVE OUR VALUES]; TRUE VALUE IS OF GOD, pure "agape" value: selfless activity, experience, knowing and sharing [our God-ing]: ** REACHING BEYOND SELF-VALUE ** - the Arm of God, applying God, His presence !! - the Mind of God enables us to see through and beyond the [SAGE] systemic !! - systemic security is dependent on belief, trust, dependence and/or threat; remove these and undermine /collapse the systemic; the firewall of selfishness, the imposed identity, must be breached - information-war, knowledge conflict: multiple launch points vs. God's Word; corporate media, the template of consciousness; security control: selfishness as right, reward ["to cash in"].

Fundamentalism is God "politicized" - the path is not prepared for the traveller, the traveller is prepared for the path ... - self-satisfaction, casual brutality, senseless violence: our systemic is self-defining -- a Christ "philosophy" [the love of wisdom] of life vs. a business dogma [to think; settled opinion]/creed [systemic belief], advocating the unholy trinity of "me, myself and I", taking for yourself first -- systemic ordination is NOT the ordination of God; God is NOT dogma and/or creed; the Body of Christ is living and fluid: ECCLESIAN LIVING WATERS in the service of God vs. interpretations in service of the systemic -- all men and women represent God, whether they know it or not [made in the image and likeness "of" God]; WE MUST COME TO *KNOW* WHOM WE REPRESENT !! - when we represent ourself(-selves) we sin, we take; representing God is our gifting of agape love !! - sin is a lack of knowledge, an ignorance of God !! - REPRESENTATION OF GOD, no other corporate agency or person.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:01 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Daily Bell: Terror for Domestic Repression

The Daily Bell

Terror for Domestic Repression

Friday, February 05, 2010

by Staff Report [article link](#)

... Republicans and Democrats are basically equal opportunity offenders when it comes to the alarming erosion of civil rights and privacy in the United States. While damage to the protections provided by the Constitution to US citizens accelerated dramatically under the Bush administration, the Obama administration has acceded to the trend (which continues unabated) - not surprisingly given that there is little difference between the two parties at this point.

The establishment of Homeland Security, the endless false terror alarms and the constant pressure for more and quicker spying on criminals and terrorists is turning the US into a kind of quasi-police state. The FBI's warrantless wiretapping, where large swathes of the public may be serially wiretapped and not know it, could well destroy what is left of the market-based entrepreneurial spirit of that country. In the past it was said of even the least regulated Western countries that "anyone could be arrested for anything." But these days the authorities in America have the means as well as the law to destroy almost anyone they wish. It is never enough, however. ...

The convergence of public policing and corporate resources is an inevitable sign of civic degradation. It means that all levels of society have been turned inward - on themselves - to facilitate the deterrence of criminal malfeasance. The result, unfortunately, is that the state can criminalize almost any activity and now has the wherewithal, increasingly, to enforce even the maddest conceits. Whether it is white-collar crime, the war on drugs or terrorism itself, the ability to gather endless amounts of evidence in order to find something - anything - that is provable in court is facilitated by this dismaying trend.

There is more of course. The recent insistence of American government intel spokesmen that Americans abroad can be targeted for assassination if they are deemed supportive of terrorism (and thus migrate to the status of "enemy") can be seen as part of a larger strategy aimed at suppressing DOMESTIC dissent. Those who are anti-war, or even against the current economic reign, may eventually find it prudent to move abroad given the wiretapping and other intrusive security arrangements increasingly being pursued domestically. But in such situations, US citizens (and eventually those from other countries) will face the uncertainties that stem from the US government's continued use of rendition and no doubt even more harassing activities. Again, it would seem, the mechanisms (illegal or not) purportedly developed to fight the war on terror inevitably are turned against those who would voice disapproval within the ambit of their own societies.

Conclusion: Yet, having written all this, it remains our humble estimation that the rapid degradation of civil liberties in America and in the West will eventually be counteracted. Unlike past episodes of repression, the current environment must contend with the liberating effects of the Internet, which is constantly and inevitably exposing the justifications that are being used to install the foundations of a surveillance society. Of course many still do not believe that the Internet will truly have an impact on what's occurring, especially when it comes to the erosion of civil liberties. We think it will.

The Daily Bell [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:58 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Sunday, February 7, 2010

Greed And Elected Representatives Are Decimating America's Economy

America and the United States Are Two Very Different Entities/Realities - They Are Not One-And-The-Same

MM Book 1 Chapter 5-6

The State is enshrined over, upon, and within the Nation(s) by their various "Constitutions", the very privileged and prejudiced rights of the Nation guaranteed by the State; these "Constitutions" are in direct "violation of God" who has given "Divine-Rights" to each and every Human Being; these Nation-State Constitutions are the very usurpation of God's Rights given to all, they are in "mimicry" of God; they represent the evil-prejudice so necessary to the Adversarial Systemic -- the people comprise the Nation, they are the Nation, but they do not comprise the Nation-State, nor do they control it, they are controlled by it; the Nation-State is comprised of, and owned by, the SAGE-Corporate; the State binds by "ropes" (of debt) and restrains by "chains" (of wealth), the Nation becoming thus the "Nation-State" (the State supported and underpinned by the Nation; the State (the "private") cannot exist without the Nation (the "public")) - our "elected" governments are the selected interface between Nation and State (selected to be elected; SAGE authorized and sanctioned; private interest in public office); State "socialization" of costs onto the Nation imperative (private profits, public debt; the privatization of profits, the socialization of costs; WEALTH CREATES POVERTY) - the western-world Nation-State "interface" is "Democratic-Fascism" - as long as the "public" Nations utilize "State debt-based Monies" based upon "private" Corporate "business", they will be owned and controlled by the State (enslaved by debt-instruments) - MESSIAH (anarcho-communitarian non-profit cooperative society) or MAMMON (the Fascist Corporate-State).

MM Book 1 Chapter 5-15

The "Nation" is considered by most as an "open hand of welcome" -- but the "(Nation-)State" is actually a "closed fist" (ie., "America" and the "United States" are in reality two very different perceptions/actualities/entities, though the religion of "America, the Chosen" is utilized to give/take divine sanction to/by the US); the "divinization" of the National Epic/Narrative, the "divine sanction" -- War is being redefined in the public mind by "shallow" use (self-serving overt aggression) by "shallow" politicians, ie., the Iraq-Afghanistan War -- evil begets evil; all sides fighting for their "God given rights" -- the only innocents here are the non-combatants on both sides who are in-the-main the ones being killed; the SAGE seek conflict and unrest as a means of controlled exploitation; take a look around, their Agenda is everywhere -- War is Mammon's "consolidation mechanism"; naked overt aggression, not clothed in any accepted reason; non-justified (complicit) -- WAR TO CREATE WAR !! -- the progression of war, engendered conflicts as means (the interrelated events, etc.) -- the Grimm (the "forces of wealth" need to extricate for their own systemic maintenance/survival (predicated upon debt/profit; exploitation is essential)); wealth protection vs. the vulgaris (the common people) !!

The Nations are in effect a "business environment" conditioned by the "social temperament" -- the "elect" corporations are "economic entities" in-and-of themselves with the prerogatives once considered sanctioned by "States" only, ie., private armies and influence -- corporate interest is now national interest; the SAGE are the corporate "controlling interest(s)", the "progenitor wealth" -- war is a weapon of weakness and deep spiritual illness -- business as "mechanism of/for life", its "growth and profit" dynamic is a cancer on the social body -- the "secular church" is married to the State, the "Bride of Christ" has married the Devil instead; the concept of the separation of "Church and State" is for common consumption to ensure the State "as religion", the false, selfish and prejudiced idol-god of nationalism and patriotism -- "profit" based on "debt-instruments" is systemic bondage to Mammon; business "growth" demanded to ensure "profit" of investment; Mammon's growth is a cancer on Humanity and will consume us !!

MM Book 1 Chapter 5 [web page](#)

MM Book 1 [blog home](#)

Markets Fail When Humans Are Unregulated

By Paul Craig Roberts [article link](#)

February 06, 2010 "Information Clearing House"

Former Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan answered that he had placed his trust in a flawed theory when he was called before Congress to explain why he, Goldman Sachs Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Deputy Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, prevented Brooksley Born, head of the Commodity Futures Trading Corporation, a government regulatory agency, from doing her job of regulating over-the-counter derivatives.

The efficient markets theory is that unregulated markets are efficient and rational. According to this theory in which Greenspan placed his trust, unregulated markets produce the best possible result. Any regulatory interference worsens the outcome.

Greenspan blamed his own bad judgment on a theory. The theory, or Greenspan's understanding of it, nevertheless still holds sway as Congress has proved impotent to re-regulate the gambling casino that is Wall Street. Clearly, the theory serves powerful interests.

But what is the truth?

The truth is that markets are a social institution. Their efficiency depends on the rules that govern the behavior of people in markets. When free market economists talk about markets deciding this or that, they are reifying a social institution and ascribing to it decision-making power. Socialists make the same mistake when they blame markets for the results of human action. But, of course, markets do not act or make decisions. People act and make decisions, and markets reflect the decisions and actions of people.

The entire debate over regulation is misconstrued. It is not the market, an efficient social institution, that is regulated. What is regulated is the behavior of people in markets. If you want good results from markets, good regulation of human behavior is a requirement.

The market is like a computer. Garbage in, garbage out.

If people who use markets are not regulated, they issue fraudulent financial instruments. They leverage assets with absurd amounts of debt. They market their instruments with fraudulent investment grade ratings. They deal themselves aces.

Did Greenspan not know this? Was he a victim of a theory or an enabler of greed unleashed by the absence of regulation?

The way to bring socialists and capitalists together is to recognize that markets are efficient and that self-interested human behavior requires social regulation.

The failure to regulate financial markets has produced enormous losses to all Americans except the super-rich. But the U.S. government is guilty of an even greater failure. Washington has not only permitted but also encouraged the unemployment of its citizens by enabling greed-driven corporations to send American jobs abroad in order to maximize profits for CEOs' bonuses, shareholders, and Wall Street.

As Ralph Gomory has made clear, economic theory has been shattered, because there is no longer any connection between the profits of American companies and the welfare of Americans. The profits of American companies are derived from the cheap labor in offshored locations and are at the expense of the American work force.

This dispossession of American labor has been heralded by offshoring's pimps in the major universities as "the New Economy."

The "New Economy" is a hoax like most everything else the bought-and-paid-for-media feeds to Americans. There is no new economy.

There is an unemployed economy. The headlined unemployment rate is just over 10 percent. The real unemployment rate, as measured by the current methodology is 17 percent. The unemployment rate as measured by the methodology of 1980 is 22 percent.

If jobs offshoring is a benefit to America, as the hired pimps of the transnational corporations claim, why is more than one-fifth of the U.S. work force unemployed? Why does the U.S. have the largest trade deficits in world history? Why is the U.S. dollar losing value over time to other tradable currencies?

Greed and elected representatives, who are toadies to special interests, are decimating the American economy.

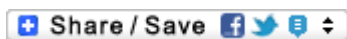
Consider President Obama's budgets for 2010 and 2011. The combined red ink is \$2.9 trillion. No one anywhere in the world has this kind of money to lend to Washington. How will these massive deficits, never before experienced on earth, be financed? They can only be financed by the Federal Reserve destroying its own balance sheet by its purchase of toxic financial instruments from the banks thereby providing the banks with cash with which to buy the Treasury's bonds, or by the Federal Reserve itself purchasing the Treasury's bonds by creating new money, or by another collapse in equity values that sends investors fleeing into "safe" Treasury bonds.

American power is on the precipice, about to fall. Perhaps it is a good thing. The world will be rid of bullying, of invasions of innocent countries based on blatant lies, of torture and murder of woman and children, of redistribution of income from the poor to the rich.

The criminal record accumulated by the United States makes it the least indispensable country on earth.

© Copyright Paul Craig Roberts, 2010

Information Clearing House [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:26 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Eric Margolis: Wars Sending US into Ruin

Wars Sending US into Ruin

by Eric Margolis [article link](#)

Published on Sunday, February 7, 2010

by Toronto Sun/Canada

... More empires have fallen because of reckless finances than invasion. The latest example was the Soviet Union, which spent itself into ruin by buying tanks.

Washington's deficit (the difference between spending and income from taxes) will reach a vertiginous \$1.6 trillion US this year. The huge sum will be borrowed, mostly from China and Japan, to which the U.S. already owes \$1.5 trillion. Debt service will cost \$250 billion.

To spend \$1 trillion, one would have had to start spending \$1 million daily soon after Rome was founded and continue for 2,738 years until today.

Obama's total military budget is nearly \$1 trillion. This includes Pentagon spending of \$880 billion. Add secret black programs (about \$70 billion); military aid to foreign nations like Egypt, Israel and Pakistan; 225,000 military "contractors" (mercenaries and workers); and veterans' costs. Add \$75 billion (nearly four times Canada's total defence budget) for 16 intelligence agencies with 200,000 employees.

The Afghanistan and Iraq wars (\$1 trillion so far), will cost \$200-250 billion more this year, including hidden and indirect expenses. Obama's Afghan "surge" of 30,000 new troops will cost an additional \$33 billion - more than Germany's total defence budget.

No wonder U.S. defence stocks rose after Peace Laureate Obama's "austerity" budget.

Military and intelligence spending relentlessly increase as unemployment heads over 10% and the economy bleeds red ink. America has become the Sick Man of the Western Hemisphere, an economic cripple like the defunct Ottoman Empire.

The Pentagon now accounts for half of total world military spending. Add America's rich NATO allies and Japan, and the figure reaches 75%.

China and Russia combined spend only a paltry 10% of what the U.S. spends on defence.

There are 750 U.S. military bases in 50 nations and 255,000 service members stationed abroad, 116,000 in Europe, nearly 100,000 in Japan and South Korea.

Military spending gobbles up 19% of federal spending and at least 44% of tax revenues. During the Bush administration, the Iraq and Afghanistan wars - funded by borrowing - cost each American family more than \$25,000.

Like Bush, Obama is paying for America's wars through supplemental authorizations - putting them on the nation's already maxed-out credit card. Future generations will be stuck with the bill. ...

The U.S. clearly has reached the point of imperial overreach. Military spending and debt-servicing are cannibalizing the U.S. economy, the real basis of its world power. Besides the late U.S.S.R., the U.S. also increasingly resembles the dying British Empire in 1945, crushed by immense debts incurred to wage the Second World War, unable to continue financing or defending the imperium, yet still imbued with imperial pretensions. ...

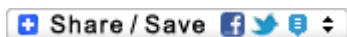
Increasing numbers of Americans are rightly outraged and fearful of runaway deficits. Most do not understand their political leaders are also spending their nation into ruin through unnecessary foreign wars and a vainglorious attempt to control much of the globe - what neocons call "full spectrum dominance."

Copyright © 2010 Toronto Sun

Common Dreams [home page](#)

Toronto Sun [article link](#)

Toronto Sun [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:59 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Saturday, February 6, 2010

Richard Heinberg: Last Nation Standing 1

China or the U.S.: Which Will Be the Last Nation Standing?

by Richard Heinberg [article link](#)

Posted Feb 3, 2010

Silly me. Here I had thought that world leaders would want to keep their nations from collapsing. They must be working hard to prevent currency collapse, financial system collapse, food system collapse, social collapse, environmental collapse, and the onset of general, overwhelming misery—right? But no, that's not what the evidence suggests. Increasingly I am forced to conclude that the object of the game that world leaders are actually playing is not to avoid collapse; it's simply to postpone it a while so as to be the last nation to go down, so yours can have the chance to pick the others' carcasses before it meets the same fate.

I know, that sounds unbearably cynical. And in fact it may not accurately describe the conscious attitudes of leaders of some smaller nations. But for the U.S. and China, arguably the countries most likely to lead the way for the rest of the world, actions speak louder than words. ...

For these two nations, avoiding collapse would require solving a range of enormous problems, of which at least four are non-negotiable: climate change; peak fossil fuels (in effect, stagnating and, soon, declining energy supplies); the inherent instability of growth-based financial systems; and the vulnerability of food systems to factors like fresh water scarcity and soil erosion (in addition to global warming and fuel scarcity). If they fail to address any one of these, societal collapse is inevitable—in a few decades certainly, but perhaps in just the next few years.

So how are our contestants doing? There's not much to report on the climate score—just vague promises for future action. So their apparent strategy in this case is to delay (not to delay the impacts, mind you, but to delay efforts to address the problem).

Likewise, there is little positive action occurring regarding food systems: the assumption appears to be that conventional industrial agriculture—which is responsible for most of the global food system's enormous and growing vulnerabilities—will somehow shoulder the task of feeding seven to nine billion humans. We just need to continue with what we are already doing, but on a larger scale and using more gene-engineered crop varieties.

Officially, peak energy is not even a concern, so evidently the strategy being adopted here is denial. We'll see how that works out.

How about the financial mess? Here the U.S. and China are in situations so different that a more extended discussion seems justified.

China Surges to the Lead!

The U.S. is in debt up to its eyeballs and has mortgaged the paychecks of every generation approximately until hell freezes over in order to bail out its "too-big-to-fail" banks. In contrast, China has piles of cash (resulting from its enormous trade surpluses) and has bought a mountain of U.S. debt in order to keep its main customer's currency from losing value. It would seem that, in this department, one nation is set to flag while the other is poised to leap into first place as world economic superpower. ...

And that happens to be the conventional wisdom on the subject. It's not hard to find commentators who say the United States is a has-been for a variety of reasons. In addition to its huge debt burden, the U.S. also suffers from a shrinking manufacturing base, a big trade deficit, eroding quality of education, and a foreign policy that serves the interests of arms manufacturers while undermining the long-term interests of the nation. Regarding the last of these items, a 2006 World Public Opinion poll showed large majorities in four leading ally nations (Egypt, Morocco, Pakistan, and Indonesia),

together accounting for a third of the Muslim world's population, believe the U.S. is determined to destroy or undermine Islam. Within those countries, most people surveyed support attacks on American targets. And it just so happens that most of the world's future oil supplies will be coming from Muslim nations. Brilliant.

By contrast, China is enjoying springtime on amphetamines. It now has the biggest car market in the world. And, according to Stuart Staniford in a recent fact-filled article, "if present trends continue, the Chinese expressway system will likely grow larger than the U.S. interstate highway system within the next couple of years, and Chinese car ownership will exceed U.S. car ownership by somewhere in the neighborhood of 2017." As of 2010 China is the leading producer of hydroelectric and solar power and by 2011 will be the top producer of wind power. China's smart grid investments dwarf those of the U.S. by 200 to one. The Chinese are also investing heavily in nuclear energy. Staniford goes on: "Oversimplifying greatly, it's as though the U.S. borrowed a pile of money from China in order to fight a war to free up oil supply in Iraq in order that China could become the greatest industrial power the world has ever seen."

China's foreign policy consists largely of buying friends by purchasing rights to oil, gas, coal, and other resources (in Canada, Australia, Venezuela, Iraq, Kazakhstan, and throughout Africa), while the U.S. spends money it doesn't have rooting out bad guys and making more enemies in the process. ...

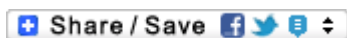
... China has been the primary beneficiary of globalization, and it has been largely insulated from the financial crisis. For the West, and the U.S. in particular, the crisis was an internally-generated event [that] led to the collapse of the financial system.

For China, it was an external shock [that] has hurt exports, but left the financial, political, and economic system unscathed. ...

China Stumbles!

... there is a school of thought that says China's apparently unstoppable economic miracle is a bubble waiting to burst. Beijing's housing market is overheated, like that of Las Vegas circa 2006. Last year, the Chinese economy enjoyed 9 percent GDP growth—on paper. But in order to achieve that goal, the government and banks had to loan out 30 percent of China's GDP (the rate of growth in loans accelerated during the latter part of the year; at year-end rates, banks were on track to loan out an amount equal to the nation's entire GDP in 2010). In any case, much of that growth probably occurred through speculation on real estate and questionable stocks.

Generally, China is at a Wild West stage of economic development: it is a collection of powerful local capitalist power bases unaccountable to anyone, all jockeying to create and inflate assets and credit. While the central government has recently exerted control over the banks, its ability to halt regional Ponzi schemes is still limited. ...

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:28 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Richard Heinberg: Last Nation Standing 2](#)

What Does It Mean to "Win"?

... So: How is the U.S. doing today in terms of collapse preparedness as compared to China?

After six decades of nearly uninterrupted economic growth, Americans have developed unrealistic expectations about the future. They are urbanized consumers whose manufacturing capability has shriveled and whose practical survival skills are in most cases vestigial. The Chinese, in contrast, have less of a steep fall ahead of them. Most still dwell in the countryside, and many who live in the cities are only one generation removed from subsistence agriculture and can still draw on their own, or their parents', practical skills learned during decades of poverty and immersion in a traditional farming culture.

Both nations face fierce political challenges. In the U.S., the central government has reached nearly complete paralysis: it is evidently incapable of solving even relatively minor problems, and confidence in it among the citizenry has largely evaporated. Political leaders have succeeded in polarizing the people geographically with "hot-button" issues, few of which have anything to do with the factors currently undermining the nation's ability to survive. The Chinese central government appears far more capable of acting decisively and strategically, but it is confronted with nasty facts of geography and history: there is an extreme and growing economic and social division between the wealthy coastal cities and the poor, rural interior; and a demographic schism between those 40 years old or younger who have high economic expectations, and the older generation who grew up under Mao, with an ethic of collectivism and self-sacrifice. The young, especially, have accepted a trade-off between civil freedoms and economic prosperity. If the latter is not delivered, there will be shrill demands for the former. These divisions are so deep and profound that they could tear society apart if expectations are dashed—and the leaders know this.

Thus, in the event of collapse, both nations face the possibility of a breakdown in their political systems, entailing widespread violence (uprisings and crackdowns).

The Geopolitics of Collapse

It's easy to see the advantage of collapse preparedness for the citizenry—with better preparation, more will survive. But does a higher survival rate during and after collapse translate to some sort of geopolitical advantage?

The process of collapse will be determined by many factors, some hard to predict, and so it is difficult to know the size or scope of the political power structure that might re-emerge in either country. It's possible that one nation, or both, could devolve into smaller political units squabbling among themselves and unable to engage much in global jockeying for resources. All new political units emerging within the present territories of China or the U.S. would be immediately beset with enormous practical problems, including poverty, hunger, environmental disasters, and mass migrations.

Presumably some potent weaponry from the age of global warfare would remain intact and usable, so it is possible in principle that one or another of these smaller political entities could assert itself on the world stage as a short-lived, bargain-basement empire of limited geographic scope. But even in that case "winning" the collapse race would be small comfort.

The possibility of armed conflict between the two powers prior to mutual collapse is not to be entirely excluded if, for example, U.S. efforts to contain Iran's nuclear ambitions were to set off a deadly chain reaction of attacks and counter-attacks possibly involving Israel, with world powers being forced to choose sides; or if the U.S. were to persist in arming Taiwan. But neither the U.S. nor China wants a direct mutual military confrontation, and both nations are highly motivated to avoid one. Thus all-out nuclear war—still the worst-case imaginable scenario for homo sapiens and planet Earth—seems thankfully unlikely, though in the few decades ahead the use of some of these weapons, on some occasions, by one nation or another, is probable. ...

How likely is the prospect for the last nation standing to be able to, as I put it in the first paragraph above, "pick the carcasses" of its competitors? Such a scenario presupposes that one nation will be able to stay on its feet for at least a few years after others fall. But this may not be possible. Recall the prophetic words of Joseph Tainter in *The Collapse of Complex Societies* (1988):

"A nation today can no longer unilaterally collapse, for if any national government disintegrates, its population and territory will be absorbed by some other [or bailed out by international agencies]. ... Collapse, if and when it comes again, will this time be global. No longer can any individual nation collapse."

When the U.S.S.R. crashed, the U.S. and various multinational corporations were able to sweep in and gobble up some of the treasure left lying around. One example: U.S. nuclear power plants have for many years been using uranium fuel cannibalized from old Soviet missile warheads. Soon, international institutions such as the World Bank and IMF helped organize new financial structures for Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, Estonia, and the other nations born from Soviet political and economic disintegration, so as to limit and reverse the process of social disintegration that had already passed beyond its early stages.

But now the game has changed. A collapse of the U.S. would leave China devastated. Not only would Beijing lose its main customer, but the hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of treasury notes it has accumulated would be rendered worthless. If China were internally stable, such impacts could be absorbed with difficulty. But in light of China's own simmering social and financial predicaments, a U.S. collapse would almost certainly be enough to tip Beijing's economy into a tailspin, resulting in both social and political crises.

A collapse of China would similarly devastate the U.S. Obviously, the loss of a source of cheap consumer products would discomfit WalMart shoppers, but the shock soon would go much deeper. The Treasury would lose its main foreign buyer of government debt, which means that the Fed would be forced to step in and monetize that debt (in common parlance, "turn on the printing presses"), undermining the dollar's value. The result: a hyperinflationary economic crash. Such a crash is probably inevitable at some point anyway, but a collapse of the Chinese system would hasten and worsen it.

In neither instance would international institutions be capable of preventing substantial social and political fall-out. The last nation standing would not stand for long. We have reached the stage where, as Tainter says, "World civilization will disintegrate as a whole."

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:22 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Richard Heinberg: Last Nation Standing 3

The Transition Marathon

Okay, so there is no serious effort on the part of U.S. or Chinese leaders to avoid collapse in the long run (say, over the next 10 to 20 years). Perhaps this is because they have concluded that it is impossible to do so—there are just too many trends leading in the same direction, and actually dealing with any of those trends head-on would entail huge, immediate political risks. In reality, however, it is much more likely that they simply refuse seriously to think about these trends and their implications, because they do have another option—to postpone collapse through deficit spending, bailouts, and more financial bubbles, while enacting their parts in a climate-policy kabuki play and engaging in resource geopolitics. This way blame will at least fall on the next set of leaders. Postponing collapse is itself a big job, enough so as to take all of one's attention away from having to contemplate the awfulness and inevitability of what is being postponed.

Do these short-term efforts in any way reduce the risk of dissolution? Hardly. In fact, the longer the reckoning is delayed, the worse it will be.

What would make more sense than just trying to put off the inevitable is quite simply to build resilience throughout society, re-localizing basic social systems involving food, manufacture, and finance. There is no need to rehearse the existing discourse about this strategy: readers who are not familiar with it can find plenty of useful pointers at transitiontowns.org, or in the books and articles of authors such as Rob Hopkins, Albert Bates, David Holmgren, Pat Murphy, and Sharon Astyk (and in some of my own writings, including [Museletter #192](#)).

It is understandably hard for national politicians to think along those lines. Building societal resilience means disregarding the dictates of economic efficiency; it means systematically reducing the power of the central government and national/global commercial institutions (banks and corporations). It also means questioning the central dogma of our modern world: the efficacy and possibility of unending economic growth.

So if the best outcome lies in a strategy of resilience and re-localization, and our national leaders can't even contemplate such a strategy, that means those leaders are, in one sense at least, irrelevant to our future.

Some blog readers are so in tune with this line of thinking that they no longer see any point in paying attention to the global scene. They may even think this article is a waste of time (and I expect to get an email or two to that effect). But following world events is more than a matter of infotainment: when and how China and the U.S. come apart at the seams is a question of far greater consequence than that of whether the New Orleans Saints or the Indianapolis Colts will win the Superbowl.

The reality is that no nation, and no community will be able to completely protect itself from the sudden, harsh winds that will rush to fill the vacuum left by an implosion of either superpower.

By the way, my apologies to the other 190 or so nations of the world, large and small: my singling out of the U.S. and China for discussion does not signify that other countries are unimportant, or that their destinies will not be as unique as their cultures and geographies; merely that those destinies will probably unfold in the context of a global collapse spreading from the two nations we have been discussing. For any nation—India, Bolivia, Russia, Brazil, South Africa—and for any community or family, survival will require some comprehension of the direction of large events, so as to get out of the way when debris is flying and to anticipate opportunities to regroup. ...

Richard Heinberg MuseLetter [web page](#)
post carbon institute [home page](#)

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:15 PM](#) [0 comments](#) [✉](#)

Friday, February 5, 2010

Mankind's Thin Veneer Of Humanity

God is an influence in the world and is influenced *by* the world ... the God "agency"; how we construct our identity(-ies) [I approve of myself ??] - *prosecution* by war is an illegal act !! - a "War On Terror" by use of a War *of* Terror is criminal; this is not disarmament of Iraq/Afghanistan, this is the dismemberment by the corporate; one tyrant replaced by another: former "benefactors" claiming the OIL PRIZE and geo-political position !! -- WAR INDUCED HUMAN COSTS HAVE TO BE BORNE BY ALL, INCLUDING THE *GUILT* !! -- the "corporate war" has continued long after the initial military fighting ended: MONEY LOVES WAR !! - engendering continued conflict, the taking from the "peace" to pay/reward those who made/make war possible is INSANITY: "WEAPONIZING BRUTALITY" IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY, NOT SOMETHING TO PROFIT FROM !! - many victimized people have-and-will-be abandoned to ensure corporate success, maintenance, and reconstruction - THE RECONSTRUCTION OF HUMANITY MUST BE OUR PRIORITY, *OUR* HUMANITY !! -- WE MUST GRIEVE OUR RESORTING TO VIOLENCE !!

God's SWORD [SacredWORD] is NOT the "knife-edge of extinction" !! - mankind's thin veneer of humanity is easily cut/ripped, and many enter and/or are pushed through !! - appreciation/gratitude is necessary for, and an aspect of, a deeper level of awareness, but requires a form of faith in the giver, and identification with the gift: WAR IS NOT THE GIFT OF PEACE [a "peace" to conduct business is NOT the Peace of God] !! - PEACE IS NOT A BUSINESS TERM; PEACE IS A GOD TERM [can only be defined in terms of God (Agape Love)] !! - a peace imposed and then enforced is NOT "peace" !! - the introduction of war [by those complicit] under the guise [pretext] of humanitarian intervention vs. brutality, in support of benefactor claim, is of itself the "same" brutality [as previously supported] -- Business is sedation of God-consciousness [we are asleep to LIFE, to a "true" Life (God *is* Truth)]; MAMMON CONSIDERED AS SAVIOR !! -- WAR IS A TESTAMENT TO OUR *FAILURE* AS HUMAN-"BEINGS", OF OUR HUMANITY !!

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:16 AM](#) [0 comments](#) [✉](#)

Paul Craig Roberts: Rule by the Rich

Rule by the Rich

by Paul Craig Roberts [article link](#)

Global Research, January 27, 2010

Creators Syndicate - 2010-01-25

The election of Republican Scott Brown to the U.S. Senate by Democratic voters in Massachusetts sends President Obama a message. Voters perceive that Obama's administration has morphed into a Bush-Cheney government. Obama has reneged on every promise he made, from ending wars, to closing Gitmo, to providing health care for Americans, to curtailing the domestic police state, to putting the interests of dispossessed Americans ahead of the interests of the rich banksters who robbed Americans of their homes and pensions.

But what can Obama do other than spout more rhetoric?

The Democrats were destroyed as an independent party by jobs offshoring and so-called free trade agreements such as NAFTA. The effect of "globalism" has been to destroy the industrial and manufacturing unions, thus leaving the Democrats without a power base and source of funding.

Obama and the Democrats cannot be an opposition party, because Democrats are as dependent as Republicans on corporate interest groups for campaign funding.

The Democrats have to support war and the police state if they want funding from the military/security complex. They have to make the health care bill into a subsidy for private insurance if they want funding from the insurance companies. They have to abandon the American people for the rich banksters if they want funding from the financial lobby.

Now that the five Republicans on the Supreme Court have overturned decades of U.S. law and given corporations the ability to buy every American election, Democrats and Republicans can be nothing but pawns for a plutocracy.

Most Americans are hard pressed, but the corporations have only begun to milk them.

Wars are too profitable for the armaments industry to ever end. High unemployment is now a permanent state in the U.S., thus coercing job seekers into military service.

The security industry profits from the police state and regards civil liberties as a hindrance to profits. By announcing that he intends to continue the Bush policy of indefinite detention, a violation of the Constitution and U.S. legal procedures, Obama has granted the Democratic Party's consent to the Republicans' destruction of habeas corpus, the main bastion of individual liberty.

Jobs offshoring is too profitable for U.S. corporations for Obama to be able to save American jobs and restart the broken economy.

Americans are being squeezed out of health care not only by the loss of job benefits, but also by corporate takeover of medical practice from physicians. Today medical doctors are wage slaves of corporate health providers that leverage doctors by turning them into supervisors of physician assistants, lower-paid people without medical degrees who perform the services that doctors once provided. As neither doctor nor physician assistant has any independence, there is no one to represent the patient's care against the profits of the corporation.

Even environmental concerns are being used to create "cap and trade" rights to buy and sell the ability to pollute. Wall Street is licking its lips over a new source of leveraged derivative instruments.

The American public cannot even get reliable information about their plight as the "MainStream Media" has been concentrated into a few corporate hands that do not permit independent reporting. The media is as dependent on corporate money as are politicians.

How can President Obama restart an economy that has been moved offshore? Millions of manufacturing jobs are gone, as are millions of jobs for college graduates, such as software engineering, Information Technology--indeed, any intellectual skill the product of which can be conveyed via the Internet. Even those intellectual skill jobs that do remain in the U.S. are filled increasingly by foreigners brought in on work visas.

The wipeout of blue collar and middle class job growth has stopped the growth of American incomes except, of course, those of the super rich. For a decade American consumers substituted increased personal indebtedness for income growth. In order to maintain and to increase their consumption, Americans consumed their assets, such as their home equity. Americans reached their maximum debt load just as the real estate bubble burst and just as the banksters highly-leveraged, toxic financial instruments brought down the stock market and the values of Americans' pensions.

The enormous damage done to the U.S. economy by jobs offshoring, work visas, and financial deregulation cannot be offset by government stimulus plans, which expand the debt burdens that are crushing Americans. The federal government's massive budget deficits and the Federal Reserve's easy monetary policy are setting the stage for an inflationary depression to follow a deflationary depression.

The Federal Reserve chairman says not to worry about inflation, because the Fed can take the money back out of the economy. But can the Fed take the money out without contracting the economy?

The Federal Reserve says not to worry about financing the federal budget deficit. Banksters are buying the Treasury bonds with the proceeds from their sales of their toxic derivatives to the Fed.

So what is happening to the Federal Reserve's balance sheet? And when will the Fed have no recourse but to print new money in order to finance the federal deficit?

How long can the dollar retain its reserve currency role in such circumstances, and how does the U.S. pay for its imports when this role is lost?

Don't look to Washington for answers to these questions.

© Copyright Paul Craig Roberts, Creators Syndicate, 2010

The Financial Crisis Is Not Over. The Economic Recovery is "Not Real"

by Paul Craig Roberts

Global Research [article link](#)

It Is Now Mathematically Impossible To Pay Off The U.S. National Debt

Global Research [article link](#)

The Economic Collapse [article link](#)

The Corporate Takeover of U.S. Democracy

by Prof Noam Chomsky

Global Research [article link](#)

Global Research [home page](#)

The Economic Collapse [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:14 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Freedom In Service To Control

MM Addendum 1-20

Confidence is faith in-and-of one's self; we must achieve self-confidence and confidence in/of-and-with God(-Family) – there is no greater enemy than one's own fears (real or imagined) – our fears will be/are manipulated / controlled by our would-be protectors/saviors, the very same who created/produced the very systemic to which we are so inured; their/its fears have become/are our fears, yet they/it fear us the most – the banality of evil, our complicity, our sin, must be recognized and repented of; only then will we be response-able.

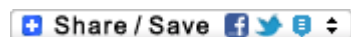
Each and every Human Being is essential to, and for, the survival of the Human Race; the SAGE Agenda will ensure the elimination of the “systemic unneeded” as a resultant; the very survival of the majority of Humankind is threatened; this is Holocaust on a massive scale, systemic extermination (as previously exemplified in Russia/Germany pre-/during WWII, and as preliminarily exemplified in today's world: 30-50M needless deaths/yr., one sacrificial death per 1M\$ of world economy (to maintain value and markets); to extrapolate further, 1000 Human Beings die/are sacrificed each and every year to maintain the value held by one Billionaire); SAGE authority is considered supra-divine, as Messianic, as binding/bound in Heaven as-well-as on Earth; the SAGE are beyond consideration and examination by the vulgar; Mammon's systemic/mechanisms ensure and enforce privacy and compliance; the “Bilderberg Meetings”, previously private, are now a vulgarization for public focus/consumption, seeming “approval at large”.

MM Addendum 1-22

The more fear there is in the world, the more people are willing to be ideologically imprisoned and shackled – imprisoned within the prevailing SAGE national systemics, the mechanisms of subjugation and control; democratic-fascism must produce (as a profit/loss) supposed-freedom(s) as its operating theatre (freedom as servant/in service to control); usurpation /misuse/misrule of the “power of the people”, now used against the same and against those considered outside; the idolization, the apotheosis(-sys) of the Nation-State (the identification with, and the defense of); obedience /obeisance as measure (of freedom(s)/of right(s) of Mammon) — Governments ensure/effect compliance — “war is terrorism of the rich against the poor; terrorism is war of the poor against the rich” [quote: BBC.Intelligence2(squared), Debate, Sat.Jan.19.08] — the 1700's, the “New World” Order established – the concept of America is the “wool pulled over the eyes” by the SAGE (grievous wolves in sheep's clothing) and their “merchant nation”. ...

MM Addendum 1 [web page](#)

MM Addendum 1 [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:41 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Richard Skaff: The Terror Card 1

The Terror Card: Fear is the Key to Obedience

The Terrorism Industrial Complex (TIC)

By Rev. Richard Skaff [article link](#)

January 31, 2010 "Global Research"

Webster's dictionary defines terrorism as the systematic use of terror especially as a means of coercion. [1].

However, the United States code defined terrorism as “(An) act of terrorism means an activity that (A) involves a violent act or an act dangerous to human life that is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or any State, or that would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States or of any state, and (B) appears to be

intended (i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population: (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or (iii) to affect the conduct of a government by assassination or kidnapping.” [2].

This is an official congressional definition of terrorism that applies only to other nations. However, the psychological end results of terror, is always fear that eventually leads to resignation and submission. Fear and terrorism are interconnected, therefore, we should discuss their connection in order to understand their impact on our behavior, and their use to control people. Fear has been the glue that has kept people attached to their dictators and to their gods. It is worth our time to take a brief look at this phenomenon that rules our existence.

Fear is the key to obedience

Man’s self-awareness is the progenitor of his alienation, fear, egocentrism, and anxiety; therefore, the unexamined life is worth living for the human herds, because it gives them a sense of false security and pseudo-belonging. Fear is the ulcer of the masses that cripples their psyche and vanquishes their freedom. [3].

Biblically speaking, fear was always used by the clergies to ensure that people would obey the rules that were allegedly bestowed by God upon humanity to avoid burning in hell. These rules were actually written by men to control the masses and to perpetuate the power of the religious leaders. As a result, telling the truth and challenging the establishment will only lead to ridicule, crucifixion, and death.

Unfortunately, fear is the driving force and the main psychological component of terror. Fear incapacitates people and renders them impotent. Fear is conducive to regressive behaviors by responsible adults, where people become dependent on an illusory parent figure like the government or a corporation per example, in order to protect them from the evildoers. So they become willing to relinquish their most intimate and sacred rights in order to feel safe. [3]. ...

The media has been spreading terror for years in the hearts of the American public, in order to force them to watch their trivial programming. Just as in Orwell’s Oceania , the airwaves are bombarded with 24 hours news channels that would resort to any twisted strategy to keep their distorted coverage going. “If it bleeds it leads. The airwaves are also inundated with shows and stories that promote fear, exaggeration of situations, twisting of the truth, psychological propaganda, bloody and gory stories, and buzz words (i.e. flesh eating bacteria, shark attacks on our shores, weapons of mass destruction, SARS, West Nile virus, carjacking, hijacking, war of the sexes, violence, epidemics, pandemics, child abductions, gay marriages, bird flu, H1N1, and so forth and so on). All designed to frighten, brainwash, manipulate, create conflict, confuse, liberalize, and mesmerize their audiences into watching their programs where anything is acceptable. “Instill fear in them and they shall watch and follow”. This is a policy of terror not of democracy. [3]. ...

Purpose of terrorism

According to Herman and O’Sullivan, terrorism has served other purposes in the West beyond mobilizing of populations in support of counterinsurgency operations in the provinces. It created a generalized fearfulness and irrationality that give leaders greater freedom of action. Per example, the Reagan administration needed a terrorism threat tied to a foreign enemy to justify its enormous arms buildup of the early 1980s and to distract attention from its regressive economic and social and social policies. [5]. Thorstein Veblen (American economist and social critic) pointed out in 1904 that militarization to combat a foreign enemy is the natural and best hope of the American elite as “a corrective for ‘social unrest’ and similar disorders of civilized life” and as the route to “popular submission and squalor.” [6]. Therefore, opponents of militarization and harsh measures against dissident minorities are paralyzed by terrorism propaganda, and it is very difficult to do something that demagogues can interpret as “helping terrorists.” ...

Racism as a tool to promote terrorism and suspend natural rights

Give up your freedom or die! That is the logo that most Americans believe in at this point of time as told by their government. What is a loss of a few sacred rights when we can keep you safe and alive, our government asks? In addition, our government implies that they are not discriminating against you, but they are only targeting a specific ethnic and/or racial group who doesn't look like you and who wants to kill you. It’s our holy (Jihad) war against the evil dark skinned

man versus the good and pure white Christian man (even though purity is a myth and humanity is a pool of mutt who has shagged each other for thousands of centuries). The government will also tell us that they will use the terrorists' violent tactics to eradicate as taught by our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the dogma of our alleged born again U.S. Christian government.

Historically, every dominant race and culture has appointed itself as the supreme one and the rest had to follow. In contrast to the bible, the meek shall not inherit the earth, but shall perish like an insignificant cockroach. Racism like hate and destructiveness is part of the human character. It is definitely a great political tool to create division among the masses in order to dominate them; in addition, down-grading people justifies their eradication. The establishment has the ability to define a race and to alter that same definition based on the political climate of the day. The illusion of belonging to a superior group helps compensates for the person who feels like a flea, and in lieu the group membership leads him to feel like a giant by appealing to his or her narcissistic biases. Group narcissism is a key factor in racism. It is fueled and perpetuated by politicians. Racism and fear go hand in hand. Fear is a natural response for self-preservation. By connecting fear to racism and artificially inducing it in people, weakens the masses and divides them, fabricates consent, and makes racism a mechanism of pseudo self-preservation. [3]. ...

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:31 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Richard Skaff: The Terror Card 2

A brief view of The Terrorism Industrial Complex (TIC)?

According to Herman and O'Sullivan, the terrorism industrial complex consists of security agencies closely connected to the government. Many of their employees are previous government employees from the intelligence community and the military.

The private sector terrorism experts in the west who reaches the mass media are generally affiliated with the terrorism industry institutes and think tanks. A large fraction of these experts also has revolving-door relationships with governments and government intelligence agencies, and many are connected with private security firms.

They therefore reflect official views and a state agenda, and they rarely depart from the assumptions of the western model of terrorism. Some of the experts have a material interest in "threat inflation." [5]. The security industry serves business and government; it therefore approaches "terrorism" from the standpoint of its employers and principals. Some segments, especially those providing security services and recruiting and training mercenaries, are often arms of the government that carry out covert actions for which the government does not want to admit responsibility.

Leaders of the security business organize and participate regularly in conferences, hearings, and seminars on terrorism, and are experts consulted by the media to explain and show how to cope with the terrorist threat. Because of their structural position and role, members of the security industry look at terrorism strictly within the frame of the Western model. And they have a material interest in inflating the threat of terrorism in order to elevate, their own importance as supplier of counterterrorism services. Since the West engages in and supports a primary terrorism under the guise of responding to the violence of others, the security industry naturally gravitates to the support of and participation in real terrorism, as exemplified by advising the Guatemalan and Honduran military on apprehending and interrogating so-called terrorists and aiding the Nicaraguan contras. In the West this is all known as counterterrorism. [5].

The industry naturally excludes the terrorism of the West and its clients from the terrorism agenda, and in fact, makes primary terrorist like the governments of South Africa and El Salvador victims of terrorism engaging in counterterrorism. The press follows closely in the terrorism industry's wake. ...

Manufacturing terrorism

There are several forms of manufactured terrorism. One is the inflation of the menace on the basis of modest and not very threatening but conceivable real actions (as with the weather underground and the West German Kurds). Another is the false transfer of the responsibility for a terrorist act to a convenient villain, as in the case of Agca's shooting of the pope. The spate of terrorist bombings in western Europe during the early and mid-1980s had the earmarks of being, at least in part, manufactured terrorism. The bombings were all too convenient for Western propaganda needs; many of them, especially those directed against NATO installations, were symbolic and ineffectual. [5]. The examples of manufactured terrorism are innumerable, and will continue to go on and on to advance Western governments political agendas. Terrorism is also manufactured in the private sector to incriminate union leaders, activists, and political enemies, sometimes in collusion with agents of the state. In addition, the West has produced an industry of institutes and experts who formulate and channel analysis and information in accordance with Western demands. These institutes as part of Terrorism Industrial Complex are designed to give authoritative status to experts who will confirm and reinforce state propaganda, to occupy the informational space that might otherwise be used by dissident voices, and thus to ensure closure of fact and opinion. The government and corporate wealthy nourish the institutes and think tanks that service and sponsor suitable intellectuals and journalists who will convey the proper messages. The function of experts is merely to clarify and elaborate on pre-established truths, which reflects an effective propaganda system. [5].

Terrorism as a tool for power and for grand theft of public money

As we have seen, there are several factors that influence terrorism and they're all connected and manipulated to serve political purposes, in order for the elite to increase their wealth, power, and global domination. The key ingredient to take away people's money, long standing systemic privileges, and their natural rights such as freedom is for governments to snatch it in increments through what social psychologists call the inoculation effect. Per example, you don't take away people's social security privileges overnight, instead you will surreptitiously do it in small doses by regularly and gradually reducing these benefits to nothing, while the herds become totally desensitized to the idea of losing it. Like religious leaders, our public-private partnership (PPP) democratic governments have consistently and regularly robbed the proles [the common man] of their money. Through taxation and inflation (indirect tax) induced and justified by deliberate and profligate spending to finance their alleged political agendas, they have transferred the wealth of nations to themselves and to their other half in the global private industry. Meanwhile, contrived terror will continue to be a great tool of control and wealth for the elites who have rendered their mercenaries and bandits into famous terrorists and global stars.

Information Clearing House [home page](#)

Global Research [article link](#)

Global Research [home page](#)

[+](#) Share / Save [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:17 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

[U.S. Agrees To Timetable For UN Gun Ban](#)

NAGR Gun Rights Blog

U.S. agrees to timetable for UN Gun Ban

January 12th, 2010 [article link](#)

The United Nations and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton are moving forward with their plan to confiscate your guns.

The United States joined 152 other countries in support of the Arms Trade Treaty Resolution, which establishes the dates for the 2012 UN conference intended to attack American sovereignty by stripping Americans of the right to keep and bear arms.

Working groups of anti-gun countries will begin scripting language for the conference this year, creating a blueprint for other countries when they meet at the full conference.

The stakes couldn't be higher.

Former United Nation's ambassador John Bolton has cautioned gun owners about the Arms Trade Treaty and says the UN "is trying to act as though this is really just a treaty about international arms trade between nation states, but there's no doubt that the real agenda here is domestic firearms control."

Establishing the dates for the Arms Trade Treaty Conference is just the first step toward their plans for total gun confiscation.

The worldwide gun control mob will ensure the passage of an egregious, anti-gun treaty ...

... and that's where Secretary of State Hillary Clinton steps in.

Once the UN Gun Ban is passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations it must be ratified by each nation, including the United States.

As an arch enemy of gun owners, Clinton has pledged to push the U.S. Senate to ratify the treaty. She will push for passage of this outrageous treaty designed to register, ban and CONFISCATE firearms owned by private citizens like YOU.

That's why it's vital you sign the special petition I've made up for your signature that DEMANDS your U.S. Senators vote AGAINST ratification of the UN's "Small Arms Treaty."

So far, the gun-grabbers have successfully kept the exact wording of their new scheme under wraps.

But looking at previous versions of the UN "Small Arms Treaty," you and I can get a good idea of what's likely in the works.

Don't let any of the "experts" lull you to sleep by saying "Oh, we have it handled" or "Until you know exactly what's in the treaty you can't fight against it."

Judging by Ambassador Bolton's comments — who certainly knows what to expect from the American-freedom-hating international crowd that infests the U.N. — we are certain the treaty's going to address the private ownership of firearms.

If passed by the UN and ratified by the U.S. Senate (which is where we must ultimately make our stand), the UN "Small Arms Treaty" would almost certainly FORCE national governments to:

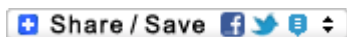
- * Enact tougher licensing requirements, making law-abiding citizens cut through even more bureaucratic red tape just to own a firearm legally;
- * CONFISCATE and DESTROY ALL “unauthorized” civilian firearms (all firearms owned by the government are excluded, of course);
- * BAN the trade, sale and private ownership of ALL semi-automatic weapons;
- * Create an INTERNATIONAL gun registry, setting the stage for full-scale gun CONFISCATION. So please click here to sign the petition to your U.S. Senators before it’s too late!

You see, this is NOT a fight we can afford to lose.

Here’s what you can do to help the National Association for Gun Rights fight Hillary Clinton and her United Nations cronies:

- Click [here](#) and sign our petition to DEMAND that your United States Senators vote AGAINST the United Nations Small Arms Treaty.
- Forward this petition to your friends and relatives who share your concern for American sovereignty and protecting our right to keep and bear arms.
- Please consider making a generous contribution to the National Association for Gun Rights to help us fight Hillary Clinton and the United Nations “Small Arms Treaty.”

NAGR Gun Rights Blog [blog home](#)
 The Daily Crux [article link](#)
 LewRockwell [article link](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:51 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Porter Stansberry: The Bankruptcy of the United States](#)

The Bankruptcy of the United States is Now Certain
 by Porter Stansberry [article link](#)

It's one of those numbers that's so unbelievable you have to actually think about it for a while... Within the next 12 months, the U.S. Treasury will have to refinance \$2 trillion in short-term debt. And that's not counting any additional deficit spending, which is estimated to be around \$1.5 trillion. Put the two numbers together. Then ask yourself, how in the world can the Treasury borrow \$3.5 trillion in only one year? That's an amount equal to nearly 30% of our entire GDP. And we're the world's biggest economy. Where will the money come from?

How did we end up with so much short-term debt? Like most entities that have far too much debt - whether subprime borrowers, GM, Fannie, or GE - the U.S. Treasury has tried to minimize its interest burden by borrowing for short durations and then "rolling over" the loans when they come due. As they say on Wall Street, "a rolling debt collects no moss." What they mean is, as long as you can extend the debt, you have no problem. Unfortunately, that leads folks to take on ever greater amounts of debt... at ever shorter durations... at ever lower interest rates. Sooner or later, the creditors wake up and ask themselves: What are the chances I will ever actually be repaid? And that's when the trouble starts. Interest rates go up dramatically. Funding costs soar. The party is over. Bankruptcy is next.

When governments go bankrupt it's called "a default." Currency speculators figured out how to accurately predict when a country would default. Two well-known economists - Alan Greenspan and Pablo Guidotti - published the secret formula in

a 1999 academic paper. That's why the formula is called the Greenspan-Guidotti rule. The rule states: To avoid a default, countries should maintain hard currency reserves equal to at least 100% of their short-term foreign debt maturities. The world's largest money management firm, PIMCO, explains the rule this way: "The minimum benchmark of reserves equal to at least 100% of short-term external debt is known as the Greenspan-Guidotti rule. Greenspan-Guidotti is perhaps the single concept of reserve adequacy that has the most adherents and empirical support."

The principle behind the rule is simple. If you can't pay off all of your foreign debts in the next 12 months, you're a terrible credit risk. Speculators are going to target your bonds and your currency, making it impossible to refinance your debts. A default is assured.

So how does America rank on the Greenspan-Guidotti scale? It's a guaranteed default. The U.S. holds gold, oil, and foreign currency in reserve. The U.S. has 8,133.5 metric tonnes of gold (it is the world's largest holder). That's 16,267,000 pounds. At current dollar values, it's worth around \$300 billion. The U.S. strategic petroleum reserve shows a current total position of 725 million barrels. At current dollar prices, that's roughly \$58 billion worth of oil. And according to the IMF, the U.S. has \$136 billion in foreign currency reserves. So altogether... that's around \$500 billion of reserves. Our short-term foreign debts are far bigger.

According to the U.S. Treasury, \$2 trillion worth of debt will mature in the next 12 months. So looking only at short-term debt, we know the Treasury will have to finance at least \$2 trillion worth of maturing debt in the next 12 months. That might not cause a crisis if we were still funding our national debt internally. But since 1985, we've been a net debtor to the world. Today, foreigners own 44% of all our debts, which means we owe foreign creditors at least \$880 billion in the next 12 months - an amount far larger than our reserves.

Keep in mind, this only covers our existing debts. The Office of Management and Budget is predicting a \$1.5 trillion budget deficit over the next year. That puts our total funding requirements on the order of \$3.5 trillion over the next 12 months.

So... where will the money come from? Total domestic savings in the U.S. are only around \$600 billion annually. Even if we all put every penny of our savings into U.S. Treasury debt, we're still going to come up nearly \$3 trillion short. That's an annual funding requirement equal to roughly 40% of GDP. Where is the money going to come from? From our foreign creditors? Not according to Greenspan-Guidotti. And not according to the Indian or the Russian central bank, which have stopped buying Treasury bills and begun to buy enormous amounts of gold. The Indians bought 200 metric tonnes this month. Sources in Russia say the central bank there will double its gold reserves.

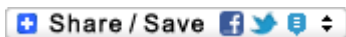
So where will the money come from? The printing press. The Federal Reserve has already monetized nearly \$2 trillion worth of Treasury debt and mortgage debt. This weakens the value of the dollar and devalues our existing Treasury bonds. Sooner or later, our creditors will face a stark choice: Hold our bonds and continue to see the value diminish slowly, or try to escape to gold and see the value of their U.S. bonds plummet.

One thing they're not going to do is buy more of our debt. Which central banks will abandon the dollar next? Brazil, Korea, and Chile. These are the three largest central banks that own the least amount of gold. None own even 1% of their total reserves in gold.

I examined these issues in much greater detail in the most recent issue of my newsletter, Porter Stansberry's Investment Advisory, which we published last Friday. Coincidentally, the New York Times repeated our warnings - nearly word for word - in its paper today. (They didn't mention Greenspan-Guidotti, however... It's a real secret of international speculators.)

Crux Note: The S&A Digest comes free with a subscription to Porter Stansberry's Investment Advisory. Porter says his latest issue is the most important he's ever written. If you don't act right now to protect yourself from the dollar, he thinks the odds are very high you'll be wiped out over the next 12 months. To learn more, click here: www.thedailycrux.com

The Silver Bear Cafe [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:41 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Bob Chapman: Global Insolvency

The Market Oracle: Global Insolvency, How will the U.S. Service its Debt?

Posted on February 3, 2010 [article link](#)

Global Insolvency, How will the U.S. Service its Debt?

Economics / US Debt

Feb 03, 2010

By: Bob Chapman

The administration says it will cut non-defense discretionary spending by about 13%, but they just increased such spending by 17%. We might ask why didn't they just rescind the increase? The reason is there can be no deficit reductions. In fact, if there is not more stimuli added then the economy will dip back into depression. This is the same mistake FDR made in 1937, and as a result America had to create another war to save itself from collapse. FDR's methods are what are being used today and as in the 1930s, they won't work today. Both are Keynesian nightmares created to put ultimate power into the hands of the elitists so they can force the world to accept world government. The tactics being used now are the same as in the 1930s, a 2-stage depression to be followed by a WWII. We are now seeing the 1934 type rebound, that could last a few years, if enough stimuli are supplied. Deficits do not produce a solid recovery; they create a transitory recovery. Business knows this and as a result they won't commit to expansion. They have no confidence in such plans, because they know once stimulus stops the economy will fall back again.

Adding more to the soup 40 states are essentially broke. Do you really think the crisis is over with 22.5% unemployment? We do not think so. There is no easy exit short of a purge of the system, which is inevitable. Any kind of stringent financial reform will bring the system down. Aggressive bank lending would bring about more monetization and more inflation. The markets believe it is back to business as usual. The only events that can bring us back to reality is a purging of the system and the end of Wall Street and the banking control of our country. The revolving door between Washington and NYC has to be dismantled. The credit system is broken and has to be changed and fixed. The shift has begun. The reign of Goldman Sachs over our government is in the process of ending. The successor will be JP Morgan Chase, which has been and will be every bit as bad as Goldman as been. The control is going to change but not the looting of the American people. The changes won't come and the system will collapse, that is how the elitists retain control over our country. The final war for our freedom is underway.

Survivalist News [home page](#)

The Market Oracle [article link](#)

Global Research [article link](#)

The International Forecaster [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:34 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Sondra Shepley: Greed Is God

Greed is God: Exporting the Values of America's Prosperity Heresy

by Sondra Shepley [blog link](#)

01-27-2010

America, dominating the global economy, imports more goods than it exports. What is less tangible, but possibly more important, is how America exports its values to a rapidly interconnecting global society.

Arguably, most wars that America has fought aim to export U.S. values of freedom and democracy. However, a major lesson from Vietnam reveals that military intervention as a means to change values and political ideology can often backfire with indefatigable resistance. Today, we see Islamic extremists using terror as a means to communicate their values in opposition to Western ideals. However, if terrorism is fundamentally a form of communication, what values do we represent when we respond militarily? We have chosen to speak their "language" of violence, and only time will tell if we will dominate the conversation.

Changing global values through the economy, however, is a completely different matter. We are winning this fight; we are changing how the world fiscally relates. What economic credo are we exporting to the rest of the world, you might ask?

Jim Wallis names that credo, "greed is good," in his new book *Rediscovering Values: On Wall Street, Main Street, and Your Street—A Moral Compass for the New Economy*. Wallis rightly assesses the current global financial crisis as primarily a moral crisis with severe economic consequences.

But McDonalds, Nike, Coca Cola, along with all other major U.S. corporations, have not been alone in the trenches winning this global values shift. I am particularly embarrassed to say that they have received significant help from one of the very establishments that should confront this immorality — American Christianity.

Perhaps one of America's biggest exports of the 20th and 21st centuries is the prosperity gospel. Growing like wildfire internationally, this brand of Christianity says that every believer is entitled to any material possession they desire — if prayed in the name of Jesus.

The prosperity gospel has such transnational appeal because it taps into the universal self-interest of the human heart. However, when repackaged in a theological context greed is not merely good, it's God.

Ironically, the prosperity gospel has found its most fertile ground in developing nations, where conspicuous and bloated consumption is the least realistic. Poorer nations are more susceptible to this lie not out of greed per se, but because of its inherent germ of truth: God does want us to be prosperous. God's emphasis, however, is on us, not just me. Probably the most quoted Bible verse among Evangelical Christians is John 3:16. It says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son..." God's heart is for the entire world, not just for me, my family, or my country. In other words, prosperity achieved through social justice is the theological corrective to the prosperity gospel.

In the absence of a global gospel witness that includes social justice, poor nations will eagerly receive a false prosperity gospel hungry to hear the incredible sliver of truth: God cares about them! All of them, not just their soul, but their whole physical and spiritual well-being.

The gravitational center of Christianity is shifting in our world. By the year 2050, the Center for the Study of Global Christianity estimates that the Christian population in the global South will nearly triple that of American and European Christians. This century, the global South is poised to radically reshape the international face, witness, and history of Christianity. In many ways the Church should highly welcome this enormous shift, freeing itself from its historical captivity to Western culture. However, as scripture says, you 'sow what you reap', and I wonder what will sprout from the greedy gospel we planted among our sisters and brothers in the global South?

Our exported American lie, based on our value of greed, is a sin of global proportions. May we repent, and may God forgive us for the mass production of our immoral values. May we also confess and seek the forgiveness of the nations to whom we sold this bill of goods.

Sondra Shepley is the speaking events manager for Sojourners.

God's politics [blog home](#)

SOJOURNERS faith, politics, culture [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:02 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Gerry Spence: We, The New Slaves

We, the New Slaves

by Gerry Spence [blog link](#)

January 25, 2010

We are the new slaves, enslaved by the Corporate King. The king disguises itself as our democratic government. But it lies to us and betrays us. The king owns our minds.

We are the new slaves, enslaved by the king's propaganda and lies. We are told we are free. But money controls all, and the people have little. The money I speak of buys elections and lying politicians who are the minions of the Corporate King. The Supreme Court, itself owned by the Corporate King, has just delivered our country over to the power of money with the court's latest decision in which it proclaims that the king may spend whatever the king wishes to further enslave the people, by feeding the people lies, feeding their prejudices, feeding their fear, feeding their hatreds and suspicions and claiming it is all for their benefit and their freedom.

We are the new slaves, enslaved by the king's voice, the television that educates us and our children, that corrupts our values with violence, that dumbs us down so we can no longer think for ourselves. We turn to the tube to think for us. It tells us what gadgets, what things to buy and how to become further enslaved to pay for them. We once enslaved the aborigines in this country by trading them trinkets and mirrors in exchange for their land. It is an old trick that those in power play on the powerless. We are the powerless.

We are the new slaves. We are enslaved by banks and their demand for interest. The banks own our homes. We pay the banks rent in the form of interest, and we keep up their property at our expense. The banks are the soul of the Corporate King. But king is governed by no moral code. The king is governed only by its greed.

We are the new slaves. We pay tribute to the Corporate King from the sweat of our bodies to finance the king's wars, wars not for our benefit, but for the king's further enrichment and power. Our people die in such wars. Our people die without adequate health care. Millions of our children go to bed at night hungry and uneducated. The king does not care. It cares only for its wars and its profit.

The king sits back and laughs. To control the minds of hundreds of millions of people is divine. But such power is in the hands of fools who are the collective mind of the Corporate King. That mind is terminally diseased with greed. And the people are in jeopardy, for the king will continue to betray the people and lie to the people until it has sucked out the last of our lives. The Corporate King is insane.

What shall a desperate people do? We will do nothing until we learn the truth of our slavery. Will it then be too late except to scream in the streets?

But the king is deaf.



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:58 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Paul A. Moore: American Corporatocracy

"Information Clearing House"

American Corporatocracy

By Paul A. Moore [article link](#)

January 22, 2010

Schools teach that the United States of America is a democracy. The government was established as "of, by, and for the people" and later on, a President Abraham Lincoln called the nation's people to join and die in a civil war that such a thing might never perish from the earth. Aside from the extent the lesson was ever in accord with the truth, it has today become an outright absurdity. The Supreme Court has declared once and for all that the corporations will rule. The United States of America is now better described as a corporatocracy. The government is owned and dictated to by these capitalist creations whose God is Mammon.

Corporations are, of course, different from people. They are devoid of human emotion. They are constitutionally unable to generate empathy. They feel nothing if people suffer exploitation, if people live in misery, or if people die horribly. Union Carbide was unaffected by the thousands dead and dying in Bhopal. It registered only on the balance sheet, a \$470-million loss taken for the sake of future corporate viability under a new name, Dow Chemical. The corporation will not be reasoned with, pleaded with, or shamed into changing course even when life on the planet hangs in the balance. McDonald's is in the process of teaching Starbucks that even the pretense of a social conscience is a losing marketing ploy.

The corporation recognizes and reacts only to threats to its air supply-profits. So in one sense corporations do share something with human beings. They have an instinct for self-preservation and if they are deprived of a life giving element they die. While human beings must have oxygen and water, the corporation's lifeblood is those quarterly profits. The corporation must make a profit and then ever greater profits into the future. Corporate profits must grow, forever! Irrational, impossible, unsustainable but that is in the nature of the beast-much as lemmings rush to the sea.

The parameters are the same in every corner of the globalized economy. The greatest possible profit is a product of the highest possible productivity and the lowest possible wage. US corporations have moved everything that isn't nailed down to lower wage countries. Nothing is made in today's de-industrialized United States. American consumer's service calls are answered in Ireland, India, the Philippines, and the Dominican Republic. Major League baseballs are made in Haiti and the recent deadly earthquake won't change that. AirJordans come out of Nike's sweatshops in Indonesia. Microsoft conducts 85% of its research in the US so Bill Gates fights to lift H-1B visa restrictions to bring the low wage high-tech workers here from India and Taiwan. Halliburton is now headquartered in Dubai and preparing to receive its old boss, Dick Cheney, in his retirement years.

To survive under their profit imperative corporations must undertake a never ending process of consolidation. There is consolidation by horizontal integration. For instance, numerous US corporations once dotted the auto making landscape. In the recent past it was down to the Big Three. Today Chrysler is doomed, Ford is on life support, and General Motors is on its knees. In the corporate world of the near future cars will be made in Japan, or China, or India. Ultimately, the industry will settle in one corporate entity.

There is consolidation by vertical integration and its champion is Wal-Mart, the world's largest corporation. Wal-Mart has made a partner of the Chinese government. Working together, the partners have turned China into a vast subsistence-wage labor camp. China supplies Wal-Mart so it has no need of domestic vendors like the now destroyed Rubbermaid. Armed with the lowest production costs, Wal-Mart's rise up on every other street corner selling every commodity imaginable and every service the corporation can get its hooks into. Wal-Mart lays waste to local economies and then picks up the pieces to

become the only butcher, baker and candlestick maker in town. The corporation recently moved to provide banking services in its stores.

The US government has been hollowed out during the rise to absolute power of the corporations. Elections have become an elaborate "reality show" that plays out on corporate television for viewers entertainment. If you watch FOX, your reality is filtered through Rupert Murdoch's Newscorp, NBC is General Electric news, CNN is Time/Warner news, ABC brings you into Disney's world, and Viacom regularly checks the iconic CBS news department to make sure Edward R. Murrow is still dead. That is when Viacom is not preparing America's youth for slavery and death through MTV and B.E.T.

The actual counting of the American people's votes is done by the corporations. Little wonder giant defense contractor United Technologies recently moved to take the job off Diebold's hands. Corporate sentinels, the lobbyists, roam the halls of government enforcing discipline among their hired hands, allowing the most servile to feed longest at the public trough. So the Congress has not passed legislation and the Supreme Court has not decided a case, in which significant wealth was involved, in favor of the people in thirty years. Each and every decision of US government now transfers wealth from the people to the corporate masters.

The corporations now have in their sights the last remaining institutional pillars of American democracy. The Business Roundtable, the Gates Foundation and the Walton Family Foundation have been working mightily to crash the public schools. Wall Street is funding the effort to gain control of the Social Security trust fund for its investment bankers. And the whole corporate gang is intent on "starving the beast" or killing state and local governments. Their success in this effort is probably best expressed in Hawaii where the number of days children spend in school has been paired from 180 to 163, and in Detroit where teachers will give \$500 a pay period back to the state, and in New Orleans where there are only a handful of public schools left, and in the states from California to New York to Florida where public school budgets have been slashed to the bone.

Then finally, there is the most ominous development of all. The corporations have begun forming their own Praetorian Guard. The massacre of Iraqi civilians and the patrolling of the hurricane ravaged streets of New Orleans have made Xe, formerly Blackwater Worldwide, formerly Blackwater USA, the most famous of the rising corporate armies. Contrary to any notion of cost effectiveness, mercenaries protect US State Department personnel in Iraq instead of the regular military. It seems not to make sense, unless the corporatocracy is looking ahead to a day when they can no longer trust the US military to carry out attacks on an American people's resistance.

Paul A. Moore
Public School Teacher

Information Clearing House [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:51 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Monday, February 1, 2010

[Dropout Nation: The Lust For Profit 1](#)

Dropout Nation

MAMMON, MONEY, MAYHEM AND MISERY

by Richard W. Posner (ColdWarBaby)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2010 article link (removed at site)

The lust for profit over life has debased human morality to a point nearly beyond recovery. It is and has been the primary cause of oppression, poverty, war and revolution throughout history. In my opinion, it has caused more conflict, suffering and death than even religion, though distinctions between state and church have at times been indistinguishable, each using

the other when it seemed expedient. Since both exist for the purpose of controlling and subjugating populations, both share the burden of blame and guilt.

The source of all this malevolence, since the concept of representative currency was born, has always been those who seek to privatize and control economies in order to completely dominate the people, nations and societies of the entire world. These money masters have hidden behind all manner of governance and social structure. They have owned kings, emperors, presidents, dictators and heads of state of every description. They have been called monarchists, socialists, communists, royalists and claimed allegiance to every nation, religion and social order imaginable. It is only a matter of chance and the times we live in that they are today called free market capitalists.

They are a cabal of international bankers that has, at the beginning of the new millennium, nearly achieved the goal their cult has always sought; absolute control of the total, global economy. Whatever their names, no matter the titles or designations they are given or give themselves, they are still the same money changers that were allegedly driven out of Herod's temple by a man named Jesus. Whether that event is fact or myth, the money changers are very real and go back at least to ancient Egypt. ...

As long as history has been recorded, a theme has recurred that has evidently failed to impress itself upon the masses of humanity. In every instance, in every society, civilization or empire, when the great bulk of wealth has become concentrated into the hands of the smallest segment of the population, utter ruin has followed as surely as is life by death. This is not a lesson taught in the typical history course. This scenario or one very much like it has been repeated many times throughout history. It is being reenacted once again in modern America and thereby spread to other nations around the world. Our educators have failed to impress the significance of this lesson upon our generations so we continue to suffer under the yoke of usury. ...

Conversely, when a true public system, governed by law, not private interests, is engaged, the resultant economy, with a more equitable distribution of wealth, generally results in greater prosperity for everyone. Some may have more than others but none are left wanting. The smaller the gap in riches, the more civil the society. The relative wealth of a few does not lead to the oppression and enslavement of the many. ...

It is only when the issuance and control of currency is ceded to the private sector and interest is charged for its use, that the ills of inflation, deflation and the profit motive begin to fracture a society. From the first day that an economy is privatized, all wealth begins an inexorable upward transfer into the hands of ever fewer individuals.

Once money is privatized and commodified it can no longer be considered true fiat currency. It has been moved outside the sphere of legal control. A fiat is a matter of law, not an instrument of private enterprise or a creation of nature.

Because it would show that privately controlled economies are nothing more than fraudulent Ponzi schemes and highly detrimental to any society, the history of money and the truth of its manipulation has been largely ignored and frequently intentionally obscured by those fallaciously calling themselves economists. In some cases, even numismatists, whose business it is to study the history of money, have contributed to the obfuscation. Those who have become indoctrinated to the theoretical reasoning of the likes of Adam Smith and the Austrian School refuse to accept the facts on the ground and continue to insist that all currency must also be a commodity. ...

Note: excellent historical context/review/comments continue in article ...

... The purpose, the only purpose, of free market globalization is to assist the international banking cartel in the accumulation and concentration of all wealth into the hands of the smallest possible number of people. There is no interest in meeting human needs. Taken to its logical extreme the end result would be all wealth, down to the last square inch of the planet being the "private property" of a single individual. ...

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:20 PM](#) [1 comment](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Monday, February 1, 2010

Dropout Nation: The Lust For Profit 2

War, The Most Profitable Of All Disasters

The fictional "War on Terrorism" is in fact not a war against anything but rather a war for an utterly unrestrained free market. It is the corner-stone for the latest stage in building the empire of mammon.

Many nations are not overly eager to be added to the list of the globalized and plundered. The terror war provides a ready excuse to pry open the doors of countries reluctant to submit willingly. If some naturally occurring crisis, a tsunami, an earthquake, is not conveniently at hand one can be easily fabricated; an economic collapse created by the "free" market, a "terrorist attack", a coup d'etat or the ever popular "peace keeping mission".

If all else fails, the threat of military intervention can always be applied. How simple for amerika to say "Your nation is harboring terrorists", " There are terrorist training camps in your country", You are in possession of weapons of mass destruction or best of all, "You are attempting to obtain nuclear weapons".

The perpetual war on terror is a free market wet dream. The enemy can be anyone, anywhere at any time.

War profiteering is nothing new but the boogeyman of global terrorism has taken disaster capitalism to a new level. Halliburton, Xe (formerly Blackwater), Bechtel, CACI, Titan, Aegis Defense Services and General Dynamics are just a few of the dozens of corporations that have capitalized on the death and destruction being wrought in iraq and afghanistan. Those are the only "wars" that get much attention these days. You may rest assured however, that wherever people are killing each other in noticeable numbers, there are multinational corporations providing whatever weapons and "services" the combatants can afford. Being very fair minded it's also certain that they're selling to both sides of any given conflict as the market allows.

The promotion and proliferation of disaster capitalism is a multifunction weapon. The utterly unrestrained exploitation of resources and disasters, both real and fabricated, reap windfall profits. Meanwhile the consequential degradation of the environment and the death toll from said disasters significantly reduces the numbers of the inferior lower classes. This leaves more resources and a smaller, more manageable slave-labor pool available for the exclusive use of the elite ruling class.

Welcome to Earth, the third world planet. ...

For once, let us honestly consider what capitalism really means. It exists for one purpose only and that is to obtain perpetual, unlimited "profit". When the decisions of an individual or an "immortal corporate person" are motivated by that purpose, they are not made with the best interests of the human species or its environment in mind. Rather, they are made exclusively for the acquisition of wealth, property and power for the few at the expense of the many. Profit can only be had by one individual at the loss of another. ...

The concept of profit as motive is flawed from its inception. In such a system, things like scruples, honesty, fairness and ethics are not assets. They actually become very costly liabilities, which must be diligently avoided. ...

... This system not only demands that profit endless, but must also constantly increase both in amount and speed of accumulation. This in turn forces consumption and profit-taking to increase beyond the capacity of the environment to provide resources for exploitation. ...

Anyone who cannot see the intrinsic fallacy of such a system is delusional. These methods can be and have been applied to many isms throughout history. It is nothing more than the choice of words that makes capitalism the name of the system that is today destroying the human race. You may call it anything you like. No name given it will change the reality. If you call it communism and apply the same principles of transferring all wealth to a few individuals, the results will be the same. Call it socialism, democracy, monarchy, theocracy or despotism and it will still destroy humanity. Unless and until we can learn to live in Peace and share the Earth fairly with each other, things will only get worse. ...

The Best Things In Life Are Free?

Food, water, health, arable soil and all the resources that Earth (Gaia) provides for everyone, free of charge, are real wealth. What gives any individual the right to claim ownership of such resources? We can answer that question with a single word: MIGHT.

Money could be of benefit to all, were it not dominated by private interests. It is only when control of money is given over to the private sector, commodified and subjected to interest charges, that serious problems arise. The pretense that money has intrinsic value, that it constitutes wealth in and of itself is a fallacy. Again, money is a fiat of law, not a commodity or product of nature. As long as it is issued and controlled by private interests for profit, it will always be an instrument of usury. It will continue to enable a parasitic, psychopathic minority, which contributes nothing to humanity, to continue its ascendancy to the self-proclaimed, godlike status it craves so desperately.

In order to move to the next level of "civilization", we must move to a global economy based on a uniform, international currency, which would eventually be transitioned to a resource-based economy requiring no currency at all.

Such an economy, based on the efficient and equitable distribution of resources, would lead to a world of freedom and equality such as has never before existed. In such a world, the people could devote most of their time and effort to expanding knowledge, advancing technology rationally and raising the awareness of the human species for the purpose of promoting its continued evolution. ...

That could lead to the first civilization on Earth.

There is no way to Peace. Peace is the Way.

Dropout Nation [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:12 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Sunday, January 31, 2010

Joseph A. Palermo: Corporate Power

The Huffington Post

"Citizens United" for More Corporate Power

by Joseph A. Palermo [article link](#)

Author/Associate Professor of History

Posted: January 24, 2010 12:51 PM

With the Supreme Court ruling by the "Fabulous Five," Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, a single corporation will be able tap into its deep pockets and disfranchise a million citizens. A group calling itself "Citizens United" has just won a fight to give huge corporations more control over our politics. Even the 1886 "ruling," Santa Clara Co. v. Southern Pacific, that established a corporation as "a person" was fraudulent. Now these fictive "persons" have been granted more political rights than real human beings. What's to stop these conglomerates from using their vast stores of cash to implant their servants at every level of municipal, state, and federal government? ...

Corporations are immortal. They don't need health care, or minimum wages, or pensions, or food stamps. They don't raise children and have families. They have no morality or ethics other than maximizing their profits. They are sociopathic. ...

And there are countless other examples of corporations egregiously violating societal norms and humane conduct that far exceed the level of damage that an individual citizen could ever cause, such as when Big Coal chews up rural communities with "mountain top removal" mining; or the McWayne foundry brutalizes its workers; or Cargill uses meat processing subcontractors that spread E. coli across the country; or Nestlé's rips off Sacramento's municipal water supply in a time of drought; or Wal-Mart and other "big box" stores obliterate main street America; or Blackwater and Haliburton profiteer from war; or media conglomerates function as corporate propaganda ministries; or Aetna and other health insurance giants prey on the American people like vultures; or ExxonMobil and the energy monopolies flaunt environmental laws and gouge consumers; or the financial services companies bring down the American economy and trade derivatives based on life insurance policies betting that Americans are going to die sooner than later; and so on, and on, and on.

Today, we have levels of inequality worse than the Gilded Age and the "trusts" are bigger, more powerful, and possess a global reach that is greater than ever. The corporations have already given the country years of disastrous public policy. The health care fiasco shows their power to pull the strings in Congress. And George W. Bush's Supreme Court drops enormous new political powers in the laps of these corporate behemoths? So much for Chief Justice John Roberts' promises during his confirmation hearing to respect *stare decisis*. Just when you think our politics couldn't get worse you get surprised again.

Wikipedia [stare decisis](#)

Stare decisis (Latin) is the legal principle by which judges are obliged to obey the precedents established by prior decisions. The words originate from the Latin phrase *Stare decisis et non quieta movere*, "Maintain what has been decided and do not alter that which has been established".

The Huffington Post [home page](#)

Joseph A. Palermo: "Citizens United" for More Corporate Power

Breaking News and Opinion on The Huffington Post

backtype Hot Topics: Comments

NAME: ljmck [comment page](#)

Now corporations won't have to buy elected officials (although they will). Just running ads, a corporation can swing an election--no messy dickering with candidates necessary. They do not "speak," they advertize!

Targets: any politician who supports minimum wages, consumer protections (e.g., child protection caps on medicine), environmental protections (look for turn-of-the-century-coal-blinded-London right here), building regulations (we'll be the

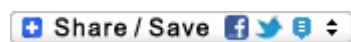
new Haiti), corporate taxes (only actual citizens will pay taxes). OSHA supporting politicians--gone. Banking protection--gone. Privacy--not if a corporation wants to know something about you (but they'll definitely increase their own privacy).

Corporations have a citizen's most important rights, but without the responsibilities. They don't vote and they don't join the military (just usurp it). They have multiple, global citizenship; try achieving that as an actual citizen. They don't need passports. They don't have to take a citizenship test if they were born overseas. They certainly don't make a voluntary pledge of allegiance. They don't have to register to vote--but make no mistake, they do vote (on the floor of the House and Senate). And they do exercise their freedom of choice concerning religion--their god is mammon. The one way these person/hoods resemble actual citizens is that they do cheat on their taxes.

Ain't it just wonderful--the freedoms of this country have been extended to person/hoods that have neither brains nor hearts nor conscience. They do have fists and very big feet. Monsters.

backtype

Breaking News and Opinion on The Huffington Post [web page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:47 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Robert Koehler: The Source Of Corporate Power](#)

Published on Thursday, January 28, 2010 by CommonDreams.org

The Source of Corporate Power

by Robert C. Koehler [article link](#)

"If the First Amendment has any force, it prohibits Congress from fining or jailing citizens, or associations of citizens, for simply engaging in political speech."

The words are those of Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, writing for the majority in last week's landmark Supreme Court decision marking some sort of culmination in the long corporate trek to personhood. It's the word "simply" that gets to me: Exxon-Pinocchio is a real boy now, and has his opinions, and the government has no right to stop him from "simply engaging in political speech."

What a cheap cover story; it's up there with "bringing democracy to Iraq" in its tawdry manipulation of iconic national values to justify a raw power grab. The 5-4 decision in the long-awaited Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission case overturns restrictions on corporate spending to influence election results, giving entities with millions (in some cases, billions) of dollars at their disposal unlimited license to electioneer for the candidate with the friendliest attitude toward their interests.

The tendency of money and power is to concentrate, of course. The big trick, from a human perspective, is to make sure our core values remain pre-eminent, that they are served by the ways in which we concentrate power. Democracy is the great mechanism for doing so, the hope of the world, or so we are told, but the wakeup message in this nakedly cynical ruling by the Roberts Court, with its slim (but sufficient) right-wing majority, is that the concept of democracy is mortally wounded. ...

The interests of Big Oil, Big Pharma, Big Coal, agribusiness, the financial sector, the insurance sector and, of course, the military-industrial complex, have infinitely more clout in government than the collective popular will and the voices calling for eco-sanity, universal health care and an end to war. Note: This is already the case.

Corporate entities have thoroughly gamed the system, leaving us with little more than a textbook-democracy façade. What the latest Supreme Court decision does is legitimize all this, shoving the corruption in our faces by declaring the absurd: Corporations are people too! They have a right to weigh in on the candidates just like the rest of us - to get their billion-dollar opinions out to the public throughout the election campaign. ...

The good news is that the decision has generated a huge outpouring of anger around the country. Within a day of the ruling, the website MoveToAmend.org had garnered some 40,000 signatures (it's now close to 50,000) in support of a constitutional amendment to establish that money is not speech and only human beings have constitutional rights. The amendment would also guarantee our right to vote and participate in elections, and to have our votes count. ...

No matter what, though, the Roberts Court has hastened the propagandizing of the national discourse, mostly through the medium of television, as corporate interests amp up their thought-control machines in the name of free speech. I see little hope for a gullible nation that allows the tube to hemorrhage urgent inanities directly into its consciousness for 18 hours a day. This gullibility is the source of corporate power. Democracy can only thrive where people think for themselves.

CommonDreams [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:39 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Saturday, January 30, 2010

[Evil Growing Deeper 1](#)

BBC: **Iraq inquiry hears defiant Blair say: I'd do it again** [article link](#)

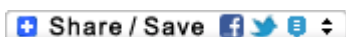
BBC: **Blair questions remain after Iraq evidence** [article link](#)

Friday, 29 January 2010

Evil Growing Deeper

The threat to an Islamic future perception; humiliation deeply felt by many Arabs; Arab helplessness, vulnerability to western power/force is being exploited to "the extreme" - the "manner" of US/UK Policy was-and-is the determinant, the "promise/reaction" equation vs. an imposed corporate oil-garchy, and its new economy addressing Iraqi nationalism/tribalism; the psychological impact of continued US/UK occupation !! - the Sunni [many still Ba'athist] vs. the majority Shiite [Kurds 20% of population]; Sunni/Shiite violence / retribution [EVIL GROWING DEEPER; ROOTS OF CONTINUED CONFLICT] -- the "corporate" western perception continually voiced by the media [the rhyme and reason], is a shell of deception: the imposed [SAGE] systemic and their imposed compliant regime(s) [FREEDOM | BUSINESS]; LIBERATION BY SYSTEMIC ENSLAVEMENT !! - DEMOCRACY DOES *NOT* ARRIVE IN A TANK !! - WINNING A WAR DOES *NOT* EXCUSE IT, especially when you are cleaning up your own mess [and creating another in the process] !!

"Post-conflict reconstruction" in the image-and-likeness of the US/UK [the imposition of "democratic-fascism", the corporate "blare" (media), the unholy, burning (war systemic) "bush" continues - the secular Thorn Ministry: the SAGE] -- the Arab and Islamic "world" perception of the US/UK "agenda", the (self-)protection of [corporate] interest(s), remains: WAR DOES NOT CHANGE EMBEDDED PERCEPTION(S), IT SHARPENS AND STRENGTHENS THEM !! - the imposition claimed by self-proclaimed friends and liberators [occupation denied] of a compliant government does not give "legitimacy" to the corporate agenda in Iraq / Afghanistan [by-and-through democratic imperialism; a single, sovereign authority] -- deep fundamental change in the culture(s) of the Middle East has been, and will be, sought and achieved by MAMMON [war is the first stage in its imposition], first by the Mammonization of elites [already achieved], then the populace [removing the whip from the elites, and putting the whip in the hands of the slaves] - Islamic Mammon | Christian Mammon [claim; democratic gradualism | Mammonization]: Mammon is Mammon no matter the flavor - THE COMMODIFICATION OF LIFE [GOD] WILL HOLD MOST IN SERVITUDE TO, OR IN MAINTENANCE OF, MAMMON !! - people are *held and (ab)used* by the commodification of life !!



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:45 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Evil Growing Deeper 2

YOU CANNOT MANAGE AND CONTROL PEACE, ONLY CONFLICT; democratic-fascism has-and-will engender much "strife" in Iraq / Afghanistan, ensuring the conflict(s) needed by the corporate; media conditioned [social needs] perception(s) of Mammon will be stressed in the rebuilding process, COSTS WILL BE BORNE BY THE VICTIMIZED !! - the US/UK "military mission" has-and-will pause, and then continue "flush with new promises/claimed successes", even some opponents have-and-will be worn down/overcome by the political "promises" made [though never realized]; public opinion(s) Mammonized, the common emotive !! -- A CHRIST-IAN'S GOVERNMENT IS *OF* GOD NOT MEN, THERE IS NO OTHER WAY OF LIFE BUT BY-AND-THROUGH CHRIST(-systemic) [Christ's Blood (our being) and Flesh (our doing)]; again, our "choice" is MAMMON OR MESSIAH !!

Preemptive [preemption tactic] "war on evil" claim; a "just war" theory not applicable as lie even by the best liars; the consequence of sin [terrorism], as justification - "superficial" evil focus, not the "deep" evil of complicity - economic access [material, secular thought] assured, plus the military generation of its own economy [MIIM, ref: [MM Addendum 1](#)] vs. religious/moral [thought] intervention claim(s) !! - an "America First" Foreign Policy ensures contradiction in values/political decision making, all Nation States exude arrogance [disregard, inconsistency towards common obligations]; ** NATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS PREJUDICE IS EVIL ** - WHAT IS THE VALUE OF A LIFE ?? - many innocent Iraqi / Afghan lives sacrificed / killed [collateral damage]; Coalition Troops lives lost [misused as corporate mercenary forces], together with the initial outright massacre of Iraqi combatants by massive fire-power that could NOT be matched [A MASSIVE FIST USED] - our humanity distanced: SLAUGHTER IS A WAR CRIME, SLAUGHTER IN THE NAME OF GOD IS AN ABSOLUTE EVIL !! - Predestination division into Good [morally superior] and Evil; MORAL ARROGANCE, HUBRIS [wanton insolence or arrogance resulting from excess pride or from passion], WRAPPED IN PATRIOTISM - Christ did NOT pursue the "zealot" option [iniquity purged by MERCY and TRUTH], the "identity" group passions; GOD MAMMONIZED [God Bless "Corporate" America], MAMMON AS SAVIOR !! -- THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN ALL FROM US [the commodification of life], WAGE WAR IN OUR NAMES, TO TAKE MORE !!



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:35 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Thursday, January 28, 2010

Secular Prophets: Howard Zinn (1922-2010)

Mat 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Mat 10:17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues.

Mat 10:18 And ye will be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

Mat 10:19 But when they deliver you up, be not anxious how or what ye shall speak, for it shall be given to you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

Mat 10:27 ***What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that publish ye upon the house-tops.***

Mat 10:28 And fear not them who kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Mat 10:32 Whoever therefore shall confess me [Jesus = Salvation/Healing, Christ = Anointing/Responsibility] before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven.

Mat 10:33 But whoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father who is in heaven.

Mat 10:34 ***Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.***

Howard Zinn (1922-2010)

Howard Zinn, the Boston University historian and political activist who was an early opponent of US involvement in Vietnam and the author of the seminal *A People's History of the United States*, died today at the age of 87 of a heart attack in Santa Monica, California. He was in a swimming pool doing laps and was spotted immediately by lifeguards but died instantly.

Zinn's brand of history put common citizens at the center of the story and inspired generations of young activists and academics to remember that change is possible. As he wrote in his autobiography, *You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train* (1994), "From the start, my teaching was infused with my own history. I would try to be fair to other points of view, but I wanted more than 'objectivity'; ***I wanted students to leave my classes not just better informed, but more prepared to relinquish the safety of silence, more prepared to speak up, to act against injustice wherever they saw it. This, of course, was a recipe for trouble.***" [Peter Rothberg, article below]

Published on Thursday, January 28, 2010 by Democracy Now!

We pay tribute to the late historian, writer and activist Howard Zinn who died suddenly on Wednesday of a heart attack at the age of 87. Howard Zinn's classic work *A People's History of the United States* changed the way we look at history in America. It has sold over a million copies and was recently made into a television special called "The People Speak." We remember Howard Zinn in his own words and we speak with those who knew him best: Noam Chomsky, Alice Walker, Naomi Klein and Anthony Arnove.

A Tribute to the Legendary Historian

with Noam Chomsky, Alice Walker, Naomi Klein and Anthony Arnove [video link](#)

Published on Thursday, January 28, 2010 by The Progressive

A Just Cause, Not a Just War

by Howard Zinn [article link](#)

Published on Thursday, January 28, 2010 by The Progressive

Remembering Howard Zinn

by Elizabeth DiNovella [article link](#)

Published on Thursday, January 28, 2010 by CommonDreams.org

A Memory of Howard

by Daniel Ellsberg [article link](#)

Published on Thursday, January 28, 2010 by The Nation

Howard Zinn: The Historian Who Made History

by Dave Zirin [article link](#)

Published on Wednesday, January 27, 2010 by The Nation

Goodbye Howard Zinn

by Peter Rothberg [article link](#)

Common Dreams [home page](#)

[+](#) Share / Save [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:55 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

The Cracked Idol, The Crumbling Pedestal 1

The US/UK Media/Gov claim all the results of war [combatant death, injury, "collateral damage", humanitarian crisis, etc., the use of force] was the result of the [evil] Iraqi and Taliban Regimes and now the result of fundamentalist/radical Islamic dogma/terrorism, its resistance to the "liberation", its continued misuse of its own people - US/UK "managing expectations" [media] of their populations; a long, brutal war made possible with denied responsibility for the chain-of-events set in motion; US/UK PEACE-HUMANITARIAN MASK covering mass murder for corporate claim !! - THE "GOD OF FORCES" HONORED: the corporate "phallick": kneeling down to power/pleasure, the instrumentation, mouthing it/worshipping it, RECEIVING FROM IT, IN LUST, THE SEED OF LIFE ITSELF [COG "woman" sexual adultery, harlotry; spiritual sodomy (the Corporate physically; spiritually, the COG Inc., Ministry)] !! - the media "myth-making" propaganda, the "shallow" politics(-ians), the brutality of corporate war, should be OUR AWAKENING [an entering into consciousness] !! - (re)turning to self [a defiance of God and/or in defiance of God] is a lessening [gratification substitution; self-masturbation; ego; right of claim; empty(-ing) self-lust] - sexual connotation(s) permeate our consumer society(-ies) [recognized and used in the Bible]; systemic psychological imprint/lock, definition(s) [the phallicy (fallibility: leading to error; "deceived" in judgement by *self*)] - GOD *IS* "A REACHING BEYOND THE SELF" *IN* AGAPE LOVE !! [vs. our self-fulfillment; a God-level mate-ing: seeking fulfillment in/with another, a *becoming* with someone else (ONE-FLESH: I AM WHAT I WILL BECOME)]; God will transform our mind [transforming: metamorphosic (changing the form, our form of being)] !!

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:49 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Cracked Idol, The Crumbling Pedestal 2

CLAIM WITHOUT COMPLICITY is a contradiction; the very "claim" makes one complicit !! -- a running, flowing, dialogue with self and God [a reasoning together] is so very important, and must be shared !! - the SAVING GRACE of God, our God-ing, must be kept and shared [God's environment]; AGAPE COMMUNITY: OUR COMPLICITY IN EVIL RECOGNIZED AND REPENTED OF, *ALL* CLAIM REJECTED !! -- our metaphoric comprehension of God, or lack thereof, by our everyday existence/symbolism is so very important to realize: ** GOD IS FAMILY, PURE AGAPE LOVE ** !! - similitude and metaphor (similitude reduced to a single word) is understood by all; the Bible is literal *and* metaphoric, one does NOT negate the other: literal expresses the physical, metaphor expresses the spiritual, though not exclusively - Biblical "literal metaphor" use/misuse [ie., OT conflicts, the Divine Sanction taken/used].

The "appointment" of privilege and its attitudes; the lack of credibility, brain-dead perception; corporate puppeteers clearly seen; shallow, scripted politics(-ians): the CRACKED IDOL, the CRUMBLING PEDESTAL !! - 9-11 horror/tragedy *used* as excuse, yet underlying complicity denied, "innocence" claimed !! - "BLIND" TRUST is no longer prevalent: people are better informed, yet, the emotive identity [nationalism] remains - MOST ARE STILL HALF-SIGHTED AND DEPENDENT !! -- wealth built by greed is actually debt owed by others: WAR INCURES MASSIVE DEBT, GENERATING MASSIVE MONETARY WEALTH [human debt/cost negated] !! - the corporate victimization of the Iraqi/Afghan people *and* the US/UK population and military will continue: ALL OF HUMANITY IS BEING VICTIMIZED !! - the continued use of religious symbolism [as words of war], "we pray that God receives and blesses those killed [US/Mil]" ... White House/Media "spinning" God into a web of deception, a covering of lies !! - GOD RELEASES US FROM ALL CLAIM WHEN WE *REJECT* ALL CLAIM [of-and-by ourselves and others], especially/specifically "monetary" claim: FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS ... !!

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:42 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Giordano Bruno: Survival Is About Knowing

Surviving Economic Collapse: Tips, Tactics, And Gear

by Giordano Bruno [article link](#)

Neithercorp Press

01/26/2010

A large part of our society operates on a disturbing assumption, a belief that has been driven into the very fabric of our culture for generations; the assumption that preparation for disaster is unnecessary because all will remain the same as it always has been.

This collective assumption exists in very few countries. South America, Africa, most of Asia, and even parts of Europe experience and even anticipate upheaval and catastrophe from time to time, not only in respect to mother nature (as recently occurred in Haiti), but also in terms of economics and social unrest. Many Americans have attempted not only to insulate themselves from such events, but to also insulate themselves from the very idea that such events could ever happen to them. The concept of hyperinflation, loss of utilities, loss of police protections, loss of infrastructure, loss of grocery outlets, is so outside their pre-programmed world view that to dare discuss these subjects is seen as “absurd” and “alien.”

While many Haitians would see the act of survival preparation as entirely practical (for numerous reasons), many Americans would become incredulous, jeering, as if they are above and beyond such concerns. This must change, and it must change quickly.

Over the past few years, there has been a strong broad based and growing movement that opposes such presumptive thinking, and has opted towards independence and self reliance. They are often called “survivalists,” usually lumped in with “conspiracy theorists,” in a derogatory fashion as if the term is disparaging. But what many of us have come to realize is that what the mainstream considers “rational” is usually anything but, and what they call “common sense” sometimes borders on the insane, for only a madman would label the logical act of preparation as “crazy,” especially in the face of so much economic uncertainty.

In this article we will discuss how to prepare for a wide-spectrum financial breakdown, as well as why it is absolutely necessary, not just to ensure ones own survival and ones own future, but the future of an ideal, and a way of life.

Survival Strategies ...

The Survival Mentality

More important than any gun, any gear, any preparation, is the mental state of the survivalist himself. One must have confidence in himself and his ability to endure, otherwise he will not succeed. I am consistently confronted by nihilists, some who even claim to be part of the Liberty Movement, who state unequivocally that survival preparation is futile, that we are all “doomed,” that the

Elites who are ransacking our country cannot be stopped. Frankly, I don’t know that for certain, and neither do they. I do know it is better to stand and fight for what you believe and die in the attempt than to give up before the fight even starts and die from lack of trying. I wonder how many people told those that fought in the American Revolution that their effort was futile, that the British could not be stopped.

I also am sometimes dismayed by those that prepare for survival only for survival’s sake. To stay alive is important of course, and a primary human drive, but our survival success may hinge not only on our instinct to live, but to also remain free. Without a philosophical or spiritual ideal, without a greater purpose, surviving this economic collapse will be an empty affair with little meaning. To come through the chaos relatively unscathed is admirable, but pointless if the end result is the formation of a tyrannical world government and the loss of our liberties. Each individual who not only survives but fights for what he believes tips the scale away from elitism and oppression. Every person who works towards something

greater than himself, a future where such pain and catastrophe no longer hang over humanity, each of these men and women send a shockwave through history that touches elements of society in ways we cannot yet even imagine.

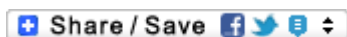
What is the point of giving up now? What do we have to gain? What do we have to lose by fighting back that we are not already about to lose?

Survival is about more than living, it is about more than believing, it is about KNOWING. Knowing what the world should be, and knowing what the world should not be. Knowing in an intuitive way, beyond simple examination and observation. Knowing from a deeper perspective.

In the end, our survival and the survival of our ideals depends not only on our two hands, our cleverness, or even our fear of death, but the content of each man's heart, and how much of that content he is willing to trust.

NEITHERCORP [home page](#)

NEITHERCORP PRESS [web page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [8:10 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

[Larry LaBorde: Fight Back And Fire The Wall Street Banksters](#)

Fight Back [article link](#)

by Larry LaBorde

01.26.10

... There is a movement afoot to go back to local banking. Go to www.moveyourmoney.info and visit their site. Say no to the Potters of the banking world and yes to Jimmy Stewart. Look in your wallet right now. How many of you have credit cards issued from the big banks? How many of you have IRAs or other accounts with or do business with the big 6 banks in any way? (Morgan/Chase, Citi Bank, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Goldman Sachs or Morgan Stanley). Fire them this month. Help make them smaller by removing your business from their banks. They will not even notice your loss but they will notice the loss of hundreds of thousands of customers leaving and going back to their local banks and credit unions. If they are "too big to fail" let's help them get smaller and make our national banking system healthier.

Most of the big 6 banks have quit or contracted their lending and are piling up all that TARP money on deposit at the Fed. Most local commercial banks and credit unions continue to lend in the local community. Go to www.solari.com and read Catherine Austin Fitts' articles on supporting your local community. It only makes sense after you read and think about the difference it makes in your long term quality of life. ...

Open up an account at a local bank or credit union. Check their rating out first at www.bankrate.com and choose a B rated bank or better. Go inside and meet them. Do not use the drive in too much. Go inside, shake hands and get to know each other. These people are your neighbors.

Grow up and cut up those credit cards (you know you have several) and use a debit card, write a check or even use CASH. The surest way to not overspend is to spend cash and to stop spending when you are out of it. Does the thought of cutting up your credit cards give you withdrawal symptoms? What about emergencies? Well how about doing what your grandfather did and keep a little cash close at home for emergencies. Hide a few hundred dollars at home and become your own ATM machine. Buy gold and silver for your long term savings and become your own central banker. Use the local bank for everything else.

Fight back and fire the Wall Street banksters. Pull your pension funds, IRAs, credit cards and other funds from the scam artists on Wall Street. One termite can not do much but thousands of us can make a difference. Support your local farmer, small businessman and local banker. You will live in a healthier community as a result.

Larry LaBorde [home page](#)
Silver Bear Cafe [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:37 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Mac Slavo: Getting Back To Basics

Wealth Preservation, Investing, and Prepping in 2010

Author: Mac Slavo [article link](#)

January 26th, 2010

The trend going forward during this economic depression is getting back to basics. We often discuss ‘prepping’ as a way to protect your family in the event of an unforeseen catastrophe (natural or man-made). Recently, we’ve seen more financial analysts and advisers recommend shifting from traditional investments like stocks, bonds, CD’s and money market accounts, to tangible assets that will gain value regardless of what stock and bond markets do. ...

For those interested in investing some of their wealth into real, tangible assets, consider the following as food for thought:

- * Precious metals ...
- * Food

As the US Dollar loses value and other countries become hesitant about fund our trillion dollar debts, the cost of food will continue to rise. Combine the dollar’s monetary issues with the fact the many farmers around the world are unable to gain access to loans to continue or expand operations, and you have the potential for prices increases no just because of dollar debasement, but supply problems. The other threat for food is that we may very well experience a perfect storm event, such as that experienced in the dust bowl of the 1930’s, meaning that heavy rains, or heat or cold may affect agricultural output, further straining supplies and pushing prices higher. Foods like rice, legumes, pastas, wheat, oats, and canned goods could be purchased today and stored, in some cases, for up to five years or longer. Consider the price increases that can happen in these food stuffs over the next five years and this investment may see significant gains. And again, you eliminate counter-party risk because you are holding the tangible assets yourself. ...

- * Sustainable Living

Well known trend forecaster Gerald Celente has suggested that one of the mega-trends of this decade will be living on less and becoming more self sustaining. Individuality will return to America, and a push to distance oneself from the “grid” will take off for a variety of reasons. Rising food and energy costs are likely to be two of the major catalysts for this trend. How can you invest for yourself? First, consider investing your time and money into skills development like gardening, farming, sewing, woodworking, or hunting, as these skills can certainly be an investment that will pay off in the future. While it may not be feasible for most to become farmers in terms of commercial enterprise, it can be accomplished on a personal level by those who have a bit of desire and choose to expand their skills base. Urban gardens are already popping up all over America as the micro-farming trend continues to gain acceptance. Even in the suburbs, on a fifth of an acre of land, those with the ability to think outside the office cube can grow enough food to support their entire family for a year.

For those concerned with rising energy costs, your options are basically limited to investing in energy stocks and ETFs, or, investing in yourself and create your own supply of energy. Learning how to develop and implement a power grid in the comfort of your own home will not only give you the skills to earn a living in the future, but to provide nearly unlimited energy for your household through use of solar, wind and hydro power. Investments into alternative energies for your home may seem costly, but not if you consider the rising cost of your electric and gas bills over the next couple of decades.

Sustainable living investments are not one-off investments, say, like storing a bucket of beans, but rather, pay dividends forever.

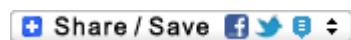
* Clothing/Footwear

Though not often considered as investments, extra clothing, especially things like socks, underwear, house shirts, shoes, sweat shirts and sweat pants, will likely move up in price as well. While adults may be able to stretch their close for several years without replenishing their closets, children are a whole different story. If you've got kids, this is one investment that can really pay off. Purchasing graduating sizes of clothing for your kids with a time horizon of 3 - 5 years can really save you money down the road. It is true that in America today, these items are readily available and imagining a scenario where these items will not be on store shelves is hard to do. But consider the East Block circa 1985, and you'll have a different perspective. Because of isolationist policies, closed currency and price controls, these items were very difficult to come by. If the US experiences a currency crisis, it will have an immediate and significant impact on the USA's ability to acquire goods from manufacturers around the world, as the price for goods will be difficult to determine because of the potential for massive currency fluctuations. If not for yourself, consider stocking some reserve clothing for your kids.

* Hard Assets in General ...

It is important to be prudent with where one might invest their money, as it is impossible to say for certain that an inflationary environment is in our future, and which goods will be affected by increased prices. But all signs point to an eventual devaluation, officially or unofficially, of the US dollar. While the aforementioned "investments" are not traditionally accepted and your financial adviser might think you've gone off the deep end, they are worth considering and provide you with another option for protecting your wealth.

SHTF Plan [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:30 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Monday, January 25, 2010

[The Spirit \(Way\) Of Life 1](#)

(employment, application of Being, the Doing (SONA=PERSONA) - MAMMON Systemic or MESSIAH (Christ Systemic))

Galatians 5:

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that **they which do such things *shall not inherit* the kingdom of God.**

Physical and Spiritual application (secular and religious): "IN VIOLATION OF GOD"

works <#2041> ergon - work - deed - doing - labour 1) business, employment, that which any one is occupied, enterprise, undertaking 2) any product whatever, any thing accomplished by hand, art, industry, or mind 3) an act, deed, thing done.

flesh <#4561> sarx - flesh - carnal - carnally minded - fleshly 1) flesh (the soft substance of the living body, which covers the bones and is permeated with blood) of both man and beasts 2) the body 2a) the body of a man 2b) used of natural or physical origin, generation or relationship; ie., born of natural generation 2c) the sensuous nature of man, "the animal nature": without any suggestion of depravity; the animal nature with cravings which incite to sin; the physical nature of man as subject to suffering 3) a living creature (because possessed of a body of flesh) whether man or beast. 4) the flesh,

denotes mere *human nature*, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God.

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal <#4561> mind (the secular mind-ing, determinant character) [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God (God's very character, as expressed in the 10C; we are the "living stones" the expressed character of God), neither indeed can be.

manifest <#5318> phaneros - manifest - openly - known - abroad - spread abroad - outwardly - outward - appear 1) apparent, manifest, evident, known; manifest ie., to be *plainly recognised* or known.

adultery <#3430> moicheia - adultery 1) adultery (DOUBLE-MINDED; REJECTION; SELFISHNESS).

fornication <#4202> porneia - fornication 1a) illicit sexual intercourse [BUSINESS=PROFIT, OUR NATURE OF INTERACTION]; (from 1 Cor. 6:12, we learn how leniently converts among the heathen regarded this vice and how lightly they indulged in it) 1b) metaph. the worship of idols; of the defilement of idolatry, as incurred by eating the sacrifices offered to idols (meat offered to idols, ie., sermons in support of the COG Inc., sanction-blessing of God claimed (CONFORMING CHRIST TO THE WORLD (KOSMOS), etc., NATIONALISM, PATRIOTISM)).

uncleanness <#167> akatharsia - uncleanness 1) uncleanness, physically or morally the impurity of lustful, luxurious, *profligate living* (THE DIVINE RIGHT OF MONEY: MAMMON EXPRESSED, THE ** LEAVEN ** OF MONEY) (EATING OF SINS, BLOOD).

lasciviousness <#766> aselgeia - lasciviousness - wantonness - filthy 1) unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence (the "god complex", SUPERBIA (arrogant pride), FILTHY LUCRE, FILTHY ROBES).

idolatry <#1495> eidololatreia - idolatry 1) the worship of false gods, idolatry; used of the formal sacrificial feasts held in honor of false gods, of avarice, as a *worship of Mammon* (the ALMIGHTY DOLLAR, BUSINESS); in the plural, the vices springing from idolatry and peculiar to it (the false idol NATION STATE and all the crimes committed in its service, machinations and propagation)(HIERARCHY, HIRED-ARCHY PRIESTHOOD-MINISTRY secular-religious) (OUR SELFISH CITIZENSHIP CLAIM) (THE COMMODIFICATION OF LIFE (the very abrogation, the denial of God)).

witchcraft <#5331> pharmakeia - sorcery - witchcraft 1a) the use or the administering of drugs 1b) poisoning 1c) sorcery, magical arts, often found in connection with idolatry and fostered by it; the *deceptions and seductions of idolatry* (PROPAGANDA, ADVERTISING, etc., THE FAITH OF/IN MONEY).

hatred <#2189> echthra - enmity - hatred 1) enmity, cause of enmity (DEMONIZATION OF THE OTHER; DE-HUMANIZING; SYSTEMIC).

variance <#2054> eris - strife - debate - contention - variance 1) contention, strife, wrangling [VESTED/PRIVATE INTEREST].

emulations <#2205> zelos - zeal - envying - indignation - envy - fervent mind - jealousy - emulation I) excitement of mind, ardour, fervour of spirit 1) zeal, ardour in embracing, pursuing, defending anything; zeal in behalf of, for a person or thing; fierceness of indignation, punitive zeal 2) an envious and contentious rivalry, jealousy (BUSINESS, COMPETITION).

wrath <#2372> thumos - wrath - fierceness - indignation 1) passion, angry, heat, anger forthwith boiling up and soon subsiding again 2) glow, ardour, the wine of passion, inflaming wine (which either drives the drinker mad or kills him with its deadly heat) (REVENGE, WARFARE).

strife <#2052> eritheia - strife - contention - contentious 1) *electioneering or intriguing for office* (PARTY POLITICS); apparently, in the NT a courting distinction, a desire to put one's self forward, a partisan and fractious spirit which does not

disdain low arts; partisanship, fractiousness (CLAIM OF SELF, ABILITIES (God's Gifts), SELFISH APPLICATION vs. GIFT-ING, GOD-ING).

seditions <#1370> dichostasia - division - sedition 1) dissension, division.

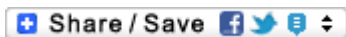
heresies <#139> hairesis - sect - heresy 1) act of capturing, capture e.g. storming a city 2) choosing, choice 3) that which is chosen 4) a body of men following their own tenets (sect or party) e.g. Sadducees 5) *dissensions arising from diversity of opinions and aims* (VESTED INTEREST, CLAIM; DEMOCRATIC FASCISM).

envyings <#5355> phthonos - envy - envying 1) envy; for envy, ie., prompted by envy.

murders <#5408> phonos - murder - slaughter - be slain 1) murder, slaughter (100 NEEDLESS DEATHS EVERY MINUTE IN SUPPORT OF MAMMON (the value of its fiat-debt-money): 50 MILLION EVERY YEAR (minimum number); the SACRIFICE OF WAR (selfish claim), incl., BUSINESS AS WAR SYSTEMIC (the murder of intellect, achievement, livelihood, community), the CRIME OF PROFIT)).

drunkenness <#3178> methe - drunkness 1) intoxication; drunkenness (STRONG DRINK: THEOLOGY, IDEOLOGY, PROPAGANDA, etc., MYTHOLOGY (the National Mythic); SELF-MEDICATION, DELUSION vs. the DISEASE OF MAMMON).

revellings <#2970> komos - revelling - rioting 1) a revel, carousal; a nocturnal and riotous procession of half drunken and frolicsome fellows who after supper parade through the streets with torches and music in honour of Bacchus or some other deity, and sing and play before houses of male and female friends; hence used generally of feasts and drinking parties that are protracted till late at night and indulge in revelry (HEDONISM; UNEXAMINED PRIVILEGE; REWARD OF MAMMON; NATIONAL(-ISM) CELEBRATION and HONORS; PARLIAMENT / CONGRESS (strong drink)).

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:20 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Spirit (Way) Of Life 2

Galatians 5: (1Cor13 LOVE defined)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we *live in the Spirit*, let us also *walk in the Spirit*. 26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. (THE PHYSICAL REFLECTS THE SPIRITUAL: BEING and DOING) (LIVE and WALK in the SPIRIT)

fruit <#2590> karpos - fruit 1) fruit; *the fruit of the trees*, vines, of the fields; the fruit of one's loins, ie., his progeny, his posterity 2) that which originates or comes from something; an effect, result 2a) *work*, act, deed, of Christian character (the 10C) 2b) advantage, profit (WELLBEING, OF THE OTHER AND SELF), utility 2c) praises, which are presented to God as a thank-offering 2d) to gather fruit (ie., a reaped harvest) into life eternal (as into a granary), is used in fig., discourse of those who by their labours have fitted souls to obtain eternal life.

Isaiah 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called *trees of righteousness*, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. 4. **And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. ...** 11 For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are *sown in it* to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause *righteousness and praise* to spring forth *before all the nations*.

Psalms 92:12 The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Proverbs 11:30. The *fruit of the righteous* [is] a *tree of life*; and he that winneth souls [is] wise. 1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, *should live unto righteousness*: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Revelation 22:14 Blessed [are] they that *do his commandments*, that they *may have right* to the *tree of life*, and *may enter in* through the gates into the city. (CHARACTER OF GOD, 10C)

spirit <#4151> pneuma - Spirit - Holy Ghost - Spirit (of God) (THE VERY MIND, THE VERY CONSCIOUSNESS, OF GOD OUR FATHER HIMSELF, HIS VERY AGENCY AND POWER; LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU THAT WAS IN CHRIST JESUS) - Spirit (of the Lord) - (My) Spirit - Spirit (of truth) - Spirit (of Christ) - human (spirit) - (evil) spirit - spirit (general) - spirit - (Jesus' own) spirit (FAITH *OF* CHRIST) - (Jesus' own) ghost - misc 1) a movement of air (a gentle blast 1a) of the wind; hence the wind itself 1b) breath of nostrils or mouth 2) the spirit, ie., the vital principal by which the body is animated; the rational spirit, the power by which the human being feels, thinks, decides; the soul 3) a spirit, ie., a simple essence, devoid of all or at least all grosser matter, and possessed of the power of knowing, desiring, deciding, and acting 3a) a life giving spirit 3b) a human soul that has left the body 3c) a spirit higher than man but lower than God, ie., an angel; used of demons, or evil spirits, who were conceived as inhabiting the bodies of men; the *spiritual nature of Christ*, higher than the highest angels and equal to God, the divine nature of Christ 4) of God, ie., *God's power and agency*, distinguishable in thought from his essence, in itself considered manifest in the course of affairs, and by its influence upon the souls productive in the theocratic body (the church) of all the higher spiritual gifts and blessings 5) the disposition or influence which fills and governs the soul of any one; the efficient source of any power, affection, emotion, desire, etc.

love <#26> agape - love - charity - dear - charitably - feast of charity 1) brotherly love, affection, good will, love, benevolence 2) love feasts (GIFT-ING, GOD-ING OF ALL THINGS, INCLUDING SELF).

joy <#5479> chara - joy - gladness - joyful - joyous - joyfulness - joyfully - greatly 1) joy, gladness 1a) the joy received from you 1b) the cause or occasion of joy; of persons who are one's joy.

peace <#1515> eirene - peace - one - rest - quietness 1) a state of national tranquillity; exemption from the rage and havoc of war 2) peace between individuals, ie., harmony, discord 3) security, safety, prosperity, felicity, (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous)(THE NAZAREAN-JUDAIC ANARCHO-COMMUNITARIAN WAY OF CHRIST) 4) of the Messiah's peace (MAMMON or MESSIAH), the way that leads to peace (salvation (HEALING)) 5) of Christ-ian-ity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is 6) the blessed state of devout and upright men after death.

longsuffering <#3115> makrothumia - longsuffering - patience 1) patience, endurance, constancy, steadfastness, perseverance 2) patience, forbearance, long suffering, slowness in avenging wrongs.

gentleness <#5544> chrestotes - goodness - kindness - good - gentleness 1) *moral* goodness, integrity 2) benignity, kindness.

goodness <#19> agathosune - goodness 1) *uprightness of heart and life*, goodness, kindness.

faith <#4102> pistis - faith - assurance - believe - belief - them that believe - fidelity 1) conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the NT of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervour born of faith and joined with it 1a) relating to God: the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ 1b) relating to Christ: a strong and welcome conviction or belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God 1c) the religious beliefs of Christians 1d) belief with the predominate idea of trust (or confidence) whether in God or in Christ, springing from faith in the same 2) fidelity, faithfulness, ie., the *character* of one who can be relied on.

meekness <#4236> praotes - meekness 1) gentleness, mildness, meekness.

temperance <#1466> egkrateia - temperance 1) self control (the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites).

The Spirit (Way) Of Life 3

MM Book 1 Chapter 4-5

Those within the hierarchy are guilty of "obstruction of justice," the *chain* of claim, of command vs. the liberation of humankind -- we are all complicit !! This is the first step, the realization that leads to the conversion process (EMANCIPATORY SPIRITUALITY, CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION):

- * awareness, realization, alternatives;
- * humility, a contrite heart [Isa. 66, "to this man will I look"];
- * seeking truth, the beginning of conscientious objection to the corporate;
- * a comprehensive critique of society; a process of refusals and developing critique; changing one's personal life, "everyday life," is ultimately the motivation for changing society [our only weapon is our refusal];
- * if we're to come to grips with transforming this world, then we'd better get used, not to living with contradictions, but to striving with and against them, and make sure that we make the optimal use of our creative capacities to overcome them;
- * seeking solutions, dialogue, co-intelligence, a shared experience, Circles Of Reliance [CORE] group(s);
- * expatriation and repudiation; we cannot serve two masters, it is either God or Mammon !!
- * the communitarian way, the Kingdom of God.

MM Book 1 Chapter 4-25

The Gospel is NOT a product, it is a way of life; the ekklesia, the church, is NOT a corporate structure, it is a social organism, a community of thought guided by God; we have been enslaved by a system, a category of thought (the hierarchical), the false way, the wrong (with its apparent evils all around us) vs. the true, the right, the community-congregation [our inherent right]; a simple, earnest, free Christianity based on *equality* [neither Jew nor Greek, neither bond nor free, neither male nor female - *all one* in Christ Jesus], eldership (servant leadership), personal zeal (sincerity), the teachings of Christ and the gifts of God [Galatians 4:31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the *free*]; 1 Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, [even so] minister the same one to another [COMMON MINISTRANT], as *good stewards* of the manifold grace of God].

A strong appeal to the religious conscience of the individual enlightened by scripture (DEFINED BY AGAPE LOVE); an exalted conscience and the Bible at the expense of clerical intercession [secular and religious; man in the way of God]; truth, love, and conduct; God's continuing creativity in our thoughts and deeds. God is the author of our salvation and of creation NOT man and his structures - the ekklesia strives to be worthy of the family name [for this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom *the whole family* in heaven and earth *is named*]; belief on His name [IN AND OF SALVATION AND THE ANOINTING, HEALING AND THE RESPONSIBILITY) carries with it all of the responsibilities and privileges of what His name(s) imply; we partake of the name(s), *they are our own*. The ekklesia is open and free, with a pure as crystal transparency that allows the Holy Spirit to shine through.

God's Names: Our Responsibilities [web page](#)

God's Names: Our Responsibilities [MM research blog](#)

Ye are the Temple of God, Ye Cannot Serve God and Mammon

MM Book 1 Chapter 4-26

What fellowship, what communion, what concord, what possible agreement can we have with the unrighteousness of Mammon? No man can serve two masters. We are commanded by God to come out from among this evil world, to separate, not touching the unclean thing [the corporate construct], not to be *unequally* yoked together. We are instructed to build *together* (AS EQUALS; EQUITY) for an habitation of God through the Spirit, the household of God, fitly

framed together as fellow citizens in the Kingdom of God, as sons and daughters in the very Family of God !! ... [The spiritual and the physical are reflections of each other, they are lived and experienced together - the physical application applies to the spiritual, and the spiritual to the physical - they are one-and-the-same !!]

Mammon or Messiah Book 1 Chapter 4 [web page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:02 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Sunday, January 24, 2010

[Stewart Dougherty: America's Impending Master Class Dictatorship](#)

America's Impending Master Class Dictatorship

by Stewart Dougherty [article link](#)

Jan 22 2010

... It is estimated that the top 1% of Americans control roughly 40% of the nation's wealth. In other words, 3 million people own \$21,400,000,000,000 (\$21.4 trillion) in net private assets, while the other 305 million own the remaining \$32,000,000,000,000 (\$32 trillion). 77,000,000 (77 million) Americans (the lowest 25%) have mean net assets of minus \$2,300 (\$-2,300.00) per person; they live from paycheck to paycheck, or on public assistance. The lower 50% of Americans own mean net assets of \$27,800 each, about enough to purchase a modest car. Obviously, it would be impossible to retire on such an amount without significant government or other assistance. Meanwhile, the richest 10% of Americans possess mean net assets of \$3,976,000.00 each, or 143 times those of the bottom 50%; the top 2% control assets worth more than 1,500 times those in the bottom 50%. When you combine these facts with Wall Street's typical multi-million dollar annual bonuses, you get an idea of wealth inequality in America. Historically, such extreme inequality has been a well-documented breeding ground for totalitarianism.

If the government decides to expropriate (steal) or commandeer (e.g., force into Treasuries) America's private wealth in order to buy survival time, such a measure will be designed to destroy the common citizens, not the elite. Insiders will be given advance warning about any such plan, and will be able to transfer their money offshore or into financial vehicles immune from harm. Assuming that the elite moves its money to safety, there would then be \$120,000,000,000,000.00 (\$120 trillion) in American debt and liabilities supported by only \$32,000,000,000,000.00 (\$32 trillion) in private net worth, for a deficit of \$88,000,000,000,000.00 (\$88 trillion). In that case, each American would owe \$285,714.29 to balance the country's books. (Remember to multiply this amount by every person in your household, including any infant children.) ...

When government "representatives" deliberately sell into slavery the citizens of a so-called free Republic, they have committed treason against those people. This is exactly what has happened in the United States: the citizens have been sold into debt slavery that they and their descendants can never escape, because the debts piled onto their backs can never, ever be paid. Despite expensive and sophisticated brainwashing campaigns emanating from Washington, claiming that America can "grow" out of its deficits and debt, it is arithmetically impossible for the country to do so. The government's statements that it can dig the nation out of its fiscal hole by digging an even deeper chasm have become parodies and perversions of even totally discredited and morally disgusting Keynesianism.

The people no longer have elected representatives; they have elected traitors.

The enslavement of the American people has been orchestrated by a pernicious Master Class that has taken the United States by the throat. This Master Class is now choking the nation to death as it accelerates its master plan to plunder the people's dwindling remaining assets. The Master Class comprises politicians, the Wall Street money elite, the Federal Reserve, high-end government (including military) officials, government lobbyists and their paymasters, military suppliers and media oligarchs. The interests and mindset of the Master Class are so totally divorced from those of the average American citizen that it is utterly tone deaf and blind to the justifiable rage sweeping the nation. Its guiding ethics of greed,

plunder, power, control and violence are so alien to mainstream American culture and thought that the Master Class might as well be an enemy invader from Mars. But the Master Class is here, it is real and it is laying waste to America. To the members of the Master Class, the people are not fellow-citizens; they are instruments of labor, servitude and profit. At first, the Master Class viewed the citizens as serfs; now that they have raped and destroyed the national economy, while in the process amassing unprecedented wealth and power for themselves, they see the people as nothing more than slaves.

America's public finances are now so completely dysfunctional and chaotic that something far worse than debt enslavement and monetary implosion, terrible curses unto themselves, looms on the horizon: namely, a Master Class-sponsored American dictatorship.

Throughout history, the type of situation in which America now finds itself has been a fertility factory for tyranny. The odds of an outright overthrow of the people by the Washington and Wall Street Axis, or more broadly, the Master Class are increasing dramatically. The fact that so few people believe an American dictatorship is possible is exactly why it is becoming likely.

Dictatorships have blighted history and ruined lives since the beginning of civilization. In recent times alone, tyrants such as Hitler, Stalin, Lenin, Ceausescu, Amin, Hussein, Mussolini, Tojo, Kim, Pinochet, Milosevic, Tito, Batista, Peron, Pol Pot, Mugabe, Marcos, Somoza, Mengistu, Bokassa, Sese Seko, Franco, Ho Chi Minh, Mao, and Castro have power-sprayed blood onto the screen of time and ravaged mankind with murder, torture and human oppression. A full catalog of history's tyrants would require a book of hundreds of pages. In the past 100 years alone, over 200 million human beings have been annihilated by wars, ethnic cleansings and government assassinations. Just when we think that civilization has been able to rise above tyranny's inhumanity and disgrace, a new dictator appears on the scene to start the process all over again. Every time this happens, fear and submission paralyze the vast majority of the affected masses, leading them to "follow orders" and lick autocracy's blood-stained boots.

History has proven to tyrants that oppression works. In fact, it is easy to control a populace, once you control the money, markets, military (including police), media and minions (the recipients of welfare, social security, free health care, government jobs and the like, who are dependent upon the state and likely to be compliant). This is exactly where the United States is today. ...

Governments that openly defy the people are either already totalitarian or in the process of becoming so. Monetarily, the United States clearly functions as a totalitarian dictatorship already, with a Federal Reserve that operates in secrecy, creates limitless amounts of debt and currency at will, and showers trillions of dollars upon favored Master Class insiders with zero transparency or accountability whatsoever. The Federal Reserve is so shameless about its dictatorial powers that it flatly refuses to provide details about multi-trillion dollar bailouts and rescues of privileged elites, in open defiance of Congress and the people. The fact that they get away with these blatant acts of defiance demonstrates the true extent of the Master Class chokehold on America. ...

Despite what you may hear from State Media, which includes virtually all establishment news organizations, particularly financial ones (e.g., CNBC), America is on the precipice. No bankrupt nation in history has ever defended or preserved the freedoms of its citizens. In fact, it has been the exact opposite: in desperation, bankrupt governments have routinely plundered their citizens' wealth and imposed totalitarian controls. What will make things different for the United States, the largest debtor nation in all of recorded civilization?

The United States government cannot ever, possibly pay its debts, is pathologically incapable of controlling its spending or curbing its hunger for both domestic and international empire and persistently refuses to tell the American people the truth. If America's citizens were told the truth and given the benefit of true leadership, as opposed to the guile and dishonesty of an endless array of political liars and hacks, perhaps they could rally and defeat the problems that afflict them. But instead, they are fed by the Master Class a steady diet of narcotic propaganda that deludes, confuses and enervates them. The truth cannot set people free if it is never told, and that is the essence of America's gathering tragedy. ...

KITCO [home page](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:43 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Charles Eisenstein: The Ubiquitous Matrix of Lies

Global Citizen Research and Media Group - Discussions

The Ubiquitous Matrix of Lies [article link](#)

Article written by Charles Eisenstein

We live in a ubiquitous matrix of lies, a culture of mendacity so pervasive that it is nearly invisible. Because we are lied to all the time, in ways so routine they are beneath conscious notice, even the most direct lies are losing their power to shock us. The most shocking thing about the lies of the Bush administration is that those lies are not actually shocking to most people. Why do we as a society seemingly accept our leaders' gross dishonesty as a matter of course? Why does the repeated exposure of their lies seem to arouse barely a ripple of indignation among the general public? Where is the protest, the outrage, the sense of betrayal?

The answer to these questions lies deeper than the machinations of one or another faction of the power elite. It lies deeper than the subversion and control of the media. Our society's apathy arises from a subtle and profound disempowerment: the depotentialization of the language itself, along with all other forms of symbolic culture. Words are losing their power to create and to transform. The result is a tyranny that can never be overthrown, but will only proceed toward totality until it collapses under the weight of the multiple crises it inevitably generates. ...

What are we to do, then, when words, our primary creative tool in the modern world, have become impotent? Surely radical activists and writers must ask this of themselves, as they shout the truth from the rooftops, loud and clear, to so little effect (yes there are some small victories, but the inferno rages on). We feel the urge to stop talking and get out there and DO something. But to do is to speak.

The exception is activists who, impatient with all the talk, go out there and do good work on a local, individual basis. They help prisoners or poor children or the sick or some other victim of the world-devouring machine. They teach teens how to become conscientious objectors. They offer legal aid or friendship to people on death row. They go into the inner city and plant gardens. They staff soup kitchens. They lie down in front of tractors. They spike trees. They blow the whistle on an injustice. They become healers. On an individual level, they make a huge difference in many people's lives, and their own lives are spiritually rewarding and emotionally fulfilling. On the societal level or the civilizational level, however, they do little to stem the tide, because on that level the main impact of such operations lies, ironically enough, in their symbolic power, which has quickly diminished (in the public consciousness) to the status of clichés, gimmicks, or stunts.

The crisis of our civilization comes down to a crisis of language, in which words have seemingly lost their ability to create and can now only destroy. We have all the technology and all the knowledge we need to live in beautiful harmony with each other and the planet. What is needed are different collective choices. Choices arise from perceptions, perceptions arise from interpretations or stories, and stories are built of words. Today, words have lost their power and our society's stories have seemingly taken on a life of their own, propelling us toward an end that no sane person would choose and that we seem helpless to resist. And helpless we are, when all we have are impotent words.

What are we as writers, then, to do? Shall we stop writing? No. But let us not labor under any illusions. The truth has been exposed again and again, but to what effect? What have forty years of correct analysis of the environmental and political state of the world brought us? The reason that the entire staff of your favorite left-wing website is not in a concentration camp is that it is not necessary. Words themselves have been robbed of their power. Thoreau said, "It takes two to speak the truth: one to speak and another to hear." Who hears now but the already-converted? ...

Like words, images have become divorced from the objects they are supposed to represent, until the very word "image" itself has taken on connotations of inauthenticity: a corporate image, a politician's image. In a world of lies and images, nothing is real. Immersed in such a world, is the political apathy of the American public so difficult to understand?

The danger when we operate wholly in a world of representations and images is that we begin to mistake that world for reality, and to believe that by manipulating symbols we can automatically change the reality they represent. We lose touch with the reality behind the symbols. Grisly death becomes collateral damage. Torture becomes enhanced interrogation. A bill to relax pollution controls becomes the Clear Skies Act. Defeat in Iraq becomes victory. War becomes peace. Hate becomes love. Freedom becomes slavery. ...

Take heart: the evisceration of the language that makes our tyranny impregnable also ensures its eventual demise. The words, numbers, and images over which it exercises complete control are less and less congruent to reality. Such is the folly of the infamous "Brand America" campaign, designed to burnish America's "image" abroad. The image has become more important than the reality. Bombs blow up innocent civilians to send a "message" to the "terrorists". No matter that this message exists only in the fantasies of our leaders. They are, like those they rule, immersed in an increasingly impotent world of symbol and cannot understand why the world does not conform to their manipulation of its representation, the pieces on their global chess board.

However we play with the statistics to cover up the converging crises of our time, the crises continue to intensify. We can euphemize the autism crisis away, the obesity epidemic, the soil crisis, the water crisis, the energy crisis. We can dumb down standardized exams to cover up the accelerating implosion of the educational system. We can redefine people in and out of poverty and manipulate economic statistics. We can declare -- simply declare -- that the forests are not in precipitous decline. For a while we can hide the gathering collapse of environment and polity, economy and ecology, but eventually reality will break through. ...

Increasingly isolated in a virtual world, the mass of people fear authenticity even as they crave it. Except in the young, the fear usually prevails over the craving until something happens to make life fall apart. Following the pattern experienced by Cindy Sheehan, the fundamental corruption of first one, then all of our civilization's major institutions becomes transparent. In my various areas of activism I have seen this many times. Someone discovers that the pharmaceutical industry, or the music industry, or the oil industry, or organized religion, or Big Science, or the food industry is shockingly corrupt, but still believes in the basic soundness of the system as a whole. Eventually, in a natural process of radicalization, they discover that the rot is endemic to all of these and more. As activists for the truth, we are midwives to this process.

As the crises of our age converge and infiltrate the fortresses we have erected to preserve the virtual world of euphemism and pretense, the world is falling apart for more and more people at once. The truth is closing in. Let us speak it loud and clear, so that when they emerge into the stark glare of our true condition, someone is there to say, "Welcome to the real world."

Ragingdebate.com [home page](#)

Global Citizen Research and Media Group [web page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [7:55 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Saturday, January 23, 2010

[Bob Chapman: What Kind Of Monsters Are These People?](#)

International Forecaster Weekly

We Are In A Depression, Not A Recovery [article link](#)

by Bob Chapman

Posted: January 23 2010

Few professionals are yet willing to admit we have been in a depression for the last year. You have to understand the position that economists and analysts are in. They work for corporations, insurance, Wall Street, banking and government and if they thought we were in a depression and they publicly announced that all chances for advancement would be lost or

they would be squeezed out of the firm or simply fired. Under such circumstances can you ever expect that you get the truth? We don't think so. Furthermore the depression we are enveloped in is far from over. The recession encompassed a drop in real GDP in the midst of a credit crisis. **The crisis was the result of over-extended credit, prohibitively low interest rates, massive speculation by banks, brokerage houses, insurance companies, and corporations worldwide. It just didn't happen it was planned that way.** We saw that recently in testimony before Congress when CEOs of these financial firms admitted they made a mistake in the process of enriching themselves. The worst sin was the criminal securitization of mortgages and the deliberately criminal mislabeling of their ratings. Then making matters worse those who sold this toxic garbage to their clients such as Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase and Citigroup were shorting the product that they had just sold to their best clients. **What kind of monsters are these people? Unethical doesn't go far enough. It was criminal.** These are the same characters, along with the Fed, and others, who gave us the dotcom boom and collapse and then foisted the real estate boom on our economy. The result has been deflating assets and contracting credit offset by massive lending, money and credit creation by the Fed and monetization, all temporary expedient measures, which in the context of history has led to failure. This has been in process for seven years. This second major abuse of our system in 14 years has presented a terrible dilemma and that is where we are today. Our monetary policy hasn't worked and won't work and there has been and presently is little fiscal control in Washington. This is no normal recession; it is a depression. ...

The International Forecaster [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:27 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Community Currency: Berkshares](#)

What are BerkShares?

BerkShares are a local currency for the Berkshire region. Dubbed a "great economic experiment" by the New York Times, BerkShares are a tool for community empowerment, enabling merchants and consumers to plant the seeds for an alternative economic future for their communities. Launched in the fall of 2006, BerkShares had a robust initiation, with over one million BerkShares having been circulated in the first nine months and over two million to date. Currently, more than three hundred and sixty businesses have signed up to accept the currency. Five different banks have partnered with BerkShares, with a total of thirteen branch offices now serving as exchange stations. For BerkShares, this is only the beginning. Future plans could involve BerkShare checking accounts, electronic transfer of funds, ATM machines, and even a loan program to facilitate the creation of new, local businesses manufacturing more of the goods that are used locally. ...

The purpose of BerkShares is to function on a local scale the same way that national currencies have functioned on a national scale—building the local economy by maximizing circulation of trade within a defined region. Widely used in the early 1900s, local currencies are again being recognized as a tool for sustainable economic development. The currency distinguishes the local businesses that accept the currency from those that do not, building stronger relationships and a greater affinity between the business community and the citizens of a particular place.

The people who choose to use the currency make a conscious commitment to buy local first. They are taking personal responsibility for the health and well-being of their community by laying the foundation of a truly vibrant, thriving local economy.

BerkShares will not, and are not intended to, replace federal currency. Their use will help strengthen the regional economy, favoring locally owned enterprises, local manufacturing, and local jobs, and reducing the region's dependence on an unpredictable global economy.

BerkShares, Inc. [web page](#)

E. F. SCHUMACHER SOCIETY [blog home](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:22 AM](#) [1 comments](#) 

BigBear: Under The Control Of The People

The People Are Irrelevant [article link](#)

Thursday, January 21, 2010

The Supreme Court has ruled that corporations may spend freely to support or oppose candidates for president and Congress, easing decades-old limits on their participation in federal campaigns.

By a 5-4 vote, the court on Thursday overturned a 20-year-old ruling that said corporations can be prohibited from using money from their general treasuries to pay for their own campaign ads. The decision, which almost certainly will also allow labor unions to participate more freely in campaigns, threatens similar limits imposed by 24 states.

Unlimited corporate spending on campaigns means the government is up for sale and that the law itself will be bought and sold. It would be political bribery on the largest scale imaginable. This issue transcends partisan political arguments. We cannot have a government that is bought and paid for by huge multinational corporations.

The Supreme Court ruling mandates that the American people push an Amendment to the United States Constitution removing person-hood from corporations or completely submit to the Corporate/Government complex.

Local Banking Local Currency [article link](#)

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

After posting record profits and issue massive bonus in the banking industry for 2009 the American Bankers Association said today that if Obama imposes a fee on banks to recoup the bailout cost the banks will stop lending.

I say fine.

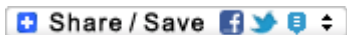
It is time for each state to create a state run bank that actually serves the needs of the public not massive corporate profits and bonuses for its executives. Nebraska has a state ran bank and guess what...the people of Nebraska are still able to get loans and the state is in the best economic health in the nation with the lowest unemployment rate. The model obviously works.

Take it one step further. The states should start issuing their own currency which is perfectly legal. Local currencies help keep the money in the state stimulating local economies and building local business. Many American communities issue local currency for just this purpose. Local merchants simply need to sign onto the program and accept the local money usually discounting products purchased with the local currency or better charge a premium on goods bought with the unstable U.S. dollar.

State authorized and controlled localized currency would cut the strangle hold that the privately owned Federal Reserve has on our economy and greatly reduce their influence over our elected leaders. It also reigns in the "to big to fail" banks that trashed the American economy in the first place.

If the Federal government is unwilling or unable to fix the problems with out economic system and bring the Federal Reserve under the control of the people then local communities must band together to protect their citizens and ensure their freedom.

Bear Ridge Project [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:08 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Friday, January 22, 2010

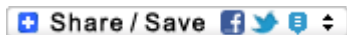
[We Must Exist In Sanctuary](#)

MM Book 1 Chapter 2-14

JEHOVAH: Lexicon H3068 the *existent* One; H1961 to be, become; happen; "I AM", THAT I AM [I AM what I shall become] ... GOD IS, WHAT WE ARE ... WHAT YOU ARE, I AM, WHAT I AM, YOU SHALL BE ... the GOD FAMILY, we become God, God becomes us: we *determine* our God(-ing) at this time, the *existent* ONE [LOVE] !! – WE ARE THE CO-CREATORS OF "JEHOVAH" [Christ the "first-born" of many brethren / sisters, the beginning (G746 arche) of the "creation of God" (Theos) (ingenerate, sense 1; created in Christ Jesus), INTO THE *ONE* ETERNAL GOD (ingenerate, sense 2)] ["ingenerate" sense 1 adj. (innate; inborn) -ated, -ating vt. (to produce or create within; engender); sense 2 adj. (not generated or produced, but originating and existing in itself); Jehovah] — the only hope for the world is God's Anointed(-ing) [Christ-ian] !! – "His Name's Sake" must be our primary consideration, it has become our responsibility, GOD'S NAMES ARE OUR NAMES [characteristics] !! – JEHOVAH *IS* RIGHT OF EXISTENCE; CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY-SANCTUARY, FAMILY !! — life should NOT be a fixed game that plays you !! – we must reduce and finally eliminate our complicity with the Systemic; we eventually must refuse to even "touch" its corporate monies [its instrumentality of evil]; WE MUST EXIST IN SANCTUARY, AS RIGHT OF GOD, FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE [and ours] !! – man's "value" [debt and oppression (limiting life)] vs. God's value [gifting; unlimited life]; WE MUST SACRIFICE THE CORPORATE IDOL [its monies]; we must release its [systemic] hold on/over us !! – OUR EXISTENCE MUST *EXEMPLIFY* OUR GOD [WE ARE ONE] !!

Mammon or Messiah Book 1 Chapter 2 [web page](#)

Mammon or Messiah Book 1 [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:31 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

[Mammon or Messiah research](#)

Thursday, January 21, 2010

[Profile: WantToKnow.info](#)

From the site:

For Those Who Want To Know

This website provides a concise, reliable introduction to vital information of which few are aware. We specialize in providing fact-filled news articles and concise summaries of major cover-ups which impact our lives and world. All information is taken from the most reliable sources available and can be verified using the links provided. Sources are always noted, with links direct to the information source provided when possible. The WantToKnow.info team presents this information as an opportunity for you to educate yourself and others, and to inspire us to strengthen democracy and to work together for the good of all.

Secret Societies News Articles [web page](#)

Excerpts of Key Secret Societies News Articles in Major Media

Free Online Courses Educate and Inspire Wisdom

Wisdom Courses [web page](#)

These free online courses bring together the best of the Internet with heart and mind expanding videos, essays, quotes, and more designed to nurture wisdom and expand your awareness of all that is happening in our world. The journey through these dynamic online courses will support you in feeling more connected, in more fully experiencing life in all its richness, and in making a difference in our world.

The Inspiration Course

The Hidden Knowledge Course

The Insight Course

The Transformation Course

The WantToKnow.info Team

The WantToKnow.info team is composed of researchers and concerned citizens from around the globe dedicated to empowering transformation of our lives and world. Some of these team members have written key books which are summarized on this website. Others have sent valuable information revealing major cover-ups. All are courageous citizens who venture where many dare not go. We share a deep commitment to inspiring us all to work together to strengthen democracy, and to build a brighter future for us all.

Index of Key Team Members

- * Kristina Borjesson - Emmy award-winning journalist, radio show co-host
- * Fred Burks - Presidential interpreter, website manager, cover-up researcher
- * Norma Carr-Ruffino, PhD - Professor of management, author of nine books
- * Steven M. Greer, MD - ER physician, author, founder of Disclosure Project
- * David Ray Griffin, PhD - Professor, theologian, author or editor of over 20 books
- * Leonard Horowitz, DMD - Author, speaker, authority in public health education
- * Michael Levine - 25-year veteran of DEA, award-winning author, radio show host
- * Peter Lindemann, DSc - Author, researcher, expert in field of new energy
- * Pamela J. Monday, PhD - Professional counselor, lecturer, researcher
- * Peter Phillips, PhD - Professor specializing in media, director of Project Censored
- * Carol Rutz - Author, lecturer, researcher, recovered mind control survivor
- * Peter Dale Scott, PhD - UC Berkeley professor, author, cover-up researcher
- * Paul Thompson - Author, researcher, creator and manager of the 9/11 Timeline
- * Charles S. Viar - Expert in intelligence and counterintelligence, 30 years experience

WANT TO KNOW.INFO [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:34 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Secular Prophets: Indicant 6

Prophecy is not prediction, it is an "indicant", a "determinant" - two ways of life presented: the blessings or the curses - the "high" road or the "low" road.

The Surveillance Society: Trading Freedom For The Illusion Of Safety

by Giordano Bruno [article link](#)

Neithercorp Press - 01/18/2010

Governments, regardless of their political structure or historical background, have always striven to not only control information, but also to gather it from the people by covert means. Often, this secretive observation of the citizenry escalates into a completely open and full-fledged surveillance state. The U.S. in particular stands on a precarious edge: the line between abhorring invasion of privacy, and embracing invasion of privacy as necessary for the "greater good." Many people assume that such a mindset is forced on the masses by the elite, that strength of arms is somehow required to make them accept the conditions of a police state, but this is not always so. It is very difficult for governments, despite any technological developments or resources they may have, to enforce and maintain a fascistic political construct. In order to retain control, they must build a "Surveillance Culture;" a society in which the people watch each other, and where individuals censor themselves instead of being censored by the authorities. In the end, a police state cannot exist without the help of the people it means to dominate. By spying on each other, we destroy ourselves. ...

China is a good example of the "modern police state," and is in itself a construction of Western financial interests. Americans often wonder why we continue to deal with the Chinese Communist regime, even owing them tremendous debt, while they murder and oppress their own citizens. I remember the Tienanmen Square protests and subsequent massacre vividly. I also remember the U.S. government's response to be muted, even flaccid. All the grandstanding by our politicians and the supposedly hard nosed George H.W. Bush on the horrors of communism suddenly disappeared. The truth was, Western governments who posed as democratic actually had no interest in supporting the Chinese people fighting for liberty. Westerners had made China a police state and they planned for it to remain that way. ...

What this shows is that the Chinese form of tyranny is not so alien as the average American might think. In fact, China is a "testing ground" for policies that Western Globalists wish to implement all over the world, including here in the U.S.

But what are some of these policies?

* Replacing Independence With Interdependence: ...

The birth of the Surveillance Society is not possible unless a collectivist mentality is first instilled in the populace. This is accomplished by a common cultural bond which is misused to manipulate the masses, such as a spiritual movement, or as in the case of China, a common enemy. The Chinese people's general hatred of the previous feudal system of royals and landlords led them to revolution, but a revolution guided by international globalists. They ended up with a system just as bad if not more insidious than the former, and still without freedom to decide their own destinies because they chose to be driven by collectivism, rather than individual liberty.

This is the ever present M.O. of the New World Order. Using a common enemy, or creating an enemy from thin air (terrorism), to frighten a particular society into conforming with collectivist ideologies. Once this way of thinking has taken root, personal freedoms can be negated more efficiently, and a surveillance grid can be instituted. ...

* Instituting A National ID ...

* Convert The Census Into A Surveillance Tool ...

* Make Privacy A Privilege, Instead Of A Right ...

If The Surveillance Society Succeeds, What Do We Have To Look Forward To?

Because it is the Globalist model for the future, again we must turn to China. China, while often being praised by many Western governments for its “progressiveness,” has become a living nightmare for those people who cannot or will not conform.

Dissenters in China, even if they are peaceful, are harshly punished with beatings, imprisonment, and even death. Some are simply “disappeared”: ...

There is a serious mental block in the average American mind that dictates to us that such things are not possible in this country. The facts show though that most of the criminal activities by governments described above have already occurred in the U.S. at one time or another. We must also understand that these are not Chinese policies, Israeli policies, or British policies; these are Globalist policies, and they are intended eventually for the entire world, including America.

The difference between us and other nations, the reason we are such a threat to Globalism, is that a greater percentage of us are informed, armed, and aware of the costs of freedom. Many cultures do not have the historical experience of self governance. Few have fought successfully for individual liberty. As Americans, we know intimately the price, the joys, and the pain of safeguarding our inborn right to determine our own destiny beyond the prying eyes of politicians and aristocrats. Of all the people in the world, we are the most capable of putting an end to globalism and centralization, if for no other reason than we know better than most exactly what a free society is, and what it is not. This puts us in a terrifying position, a position of responsibility beyond what any generation before us has dealt with. We are the last chance for emancipation from a planet-wide Surveillance Society. If we falter, if we relinquish our liberty in exchange for a pledge of security that can never be fulfilled, if the U.S. is allowed to fall into such despair, the rest of the world will likely follow.

NEITHERCORP [home page](#)

NEITHERCORP PRESS [web page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:46 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

[The Crime of Christ 1](#)

MM Book 2 Chapter 8-18

Christianity articulates a very radical view: equity and righteousness – this is sedition to the business world [the very "crime" of Christ; WE MUST COMMIT "THE CRIME OF CHRIST"]; GOD-THINK vs. BUSINESS-THINK – this is anathema to the carefully maintained climate of public opinion based on fear, the very fear that would be eradicated by the equity and righteousness the fear-threat is predicated on [that equity and righteousness would take what is "rightfully" theirs] !! – the wall of oppression and ignorance holds back, shelters them from the winds of change; the manufactured, manipulated, consensus viewpoint is protected in their business interest, taking what is *not* “rightfully” theirs; the unrighteousness of MAMMON - what is rightful in the business context is NOT what is rightful in the God context !! – GOD GIVES / IS LIFE *NOT* MONEY – ** MONEY AS RIGHT [MAMMON] IS ABSOLUTE EVIL !! ** — we endure, tolerate each other, we put up with each other, as long as “they” are not too much in *our way*, or we are getting something from them, or if there is an advantage to be gained, or a law to be feared [impure, evil motives]; GOD IS PURE LOVE, PURE MOTIVE, AND SO MUST WE BE !! – if someone is regarded as “in our way” then we are regarded as “out of” God’s way, His path, in effect “in the way” of God, blocking Him; there is no “our way” as Christians, there is only God’s way: His character.

Mammon or Messiah Book 2 [web page](#)

Mammon or Messiah Book 2 [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:03 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Crime of Christ 2

The Treat of Truth vs. Oppression:

Vietnam jails democracy activists for subversion

Wednesday, 20 January 2010

BBC [article link](#)

A court in Vietnam has convicted four activists, including prominent human rights lawyer Le Cong Dinh, of trying to overthrow the Communist government.

The four men received sentences of up to 16 years on charges of subversion.

Dinh was sentenced to five years, while internet entrepreneur Tran Huynh Duy Thuc received the longest term. The case has drawn strong criticism from rights groups abroad, who see it as a sign of an increasing clampdown on democracy and freedom of expression.

The four accused - who were arrested in June - were initially charged with spreading anti-government propaganda. But early last month, state prosecutors decided to bring more serious charges against them.

After a day-long trial, Le Cong Dinh, Tran Huynh Duy Thuc, Nguyen Tien Trung and Le Thang Long were all convicted of "activities aimed at subverting the people's administration".

Re-think on allowing the poor (2/3 of movie viewership) to realize and identify with their common plight:

China axes 2D Avatar from cinemas (with insert)

Wednesday, 20 January 2010

BBC [article link](#)

China has pulled the 2D version of Avatar from cinemas amid claims the plot mirrors forced land evictions in the country. Authorities insist the decision was a commercial one, saying the 3D version made up two-thirds of ticket revenues (1/3 of viewers).

Critics claim the film's plot parallels the removal of millions of residents to make way for property developers.

In Avatar, a ruthless corporation tries to force the native Na'vi from their homes in order to mine their planet's precious natural resources. ...

Writing in English-language newspaper China Daily, columnist Huang Hung said the smash-hit film mirrored China's rules on forced eviction. "All the forced removal of old neighbourhoods in China makes us the only earthlings today who can really feel the pain of the Na'vi," she wrote. ...

Avatar had been showing on 2,500 screens across China. One-third were Imax and 3D screens while the rest were regular 2D screens.

The cinema is still considered a pricey treat in China, with tickets for the 2D version of Avatar costing 30 to 40 yuan (£2.60 to £3.50), with 3D tickets from 60 to 80 yuan (£5.20 to £7).

Avatar is already the highest-grossing film of all time in China, pulling in more than 300m yuan (£27m). ...

China restricts the number of foreign films shown in the country to 20 each year, a policy that has led to complaints from the US.

BBC News [front page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:53 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

[Puru Saxena: Inflation 101](#)

Inflation 101

By Puru Saxena [article link](#)

Jan 15 2010 2:05PM

We want all our readers to understand that inflation is a disaster for society and it only benefits the elite. In fact, we will go even further by stating that inflation is a hidden tax, an insidious crime against the public. It is the easiest way for any government to confiscate the savings of the public and for generations, wealth has been transferred in this manner.

In our opinion, inflation is evil and the sole reason why human beings have become modern-day slaves. Remember, money is supposed to be a store of value, however due to reckless central bank-sponsored inflation, it can no longer fulfill this critical role. This is precisely the reason why human beings are never satisfied with what they have because nobody knows what their savings will buy them in ten or twenty years time. So, rather than enjoy their lives, the vast majority of people continue with their never ending pursuit of acquiring even more money! Unfortunately, nobody questions the inexplicable loss of the purchasing power of their savings, thus, central banks get away with financial murder.

It is our contention that inflation distorts the economy, it brings great harm to the public and it encourages speculation and mindless risk-taking. In fact, inflation acts as a poison for retired people since they are no longer able to earn more money in order to maintain their standard of living. So, thanks to inflation, most senior citizens are unable to enjoy the fruits of their labour.

Before we delve further, we want to make it absolutely clear that inflation is defined as the increase in the quantity of money and debt within an economy. And contrary to what the governments want you to believe, inflation is certainly not an increase in the general price level within an economy. Instead, an increase in the general price level within an economy is a consequence of inflation. Allow us to explain this subtle yet critical difference: ...

Apart from diminishing the purchasing power of savings, inflation also creates unfair advantages for the elite. When a new cycle of inflation (expansion of money-supply and credit) commences, usually the governments and banks have first access to this newly created money and they obtain this cash at a time when prices within the economy are still depressed. Therefore, these powerful entities are able to buy inexpensive goods by using this newly created money. Now, by the time this surplus money has permeated through the economy and reached the masses, prices have usually risen significantly by then. Accordingly, the public gets access to the additional money at a time when prices are much higher than the commencement of the inflationary cycle! ...

PuruSaxena Wealth Management [home page](#)
KITCO [home page](#)

Inflation is the Sole Reason for Modern Day Slavery

Author: Mac Slavo [article link](#)

January 19th, 2010

SHTF Plan [home page](#)

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:57 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Democratic-Fascism is the “Serpentine Way”

MM Addendum 1-17

Political Parties are in effect Cultic (Cult-ure) [Sociology: an elite group, a self-identified group of people who share a narrowly defined interest or perspective; idolization of somebody or something: an extreme or excessive admiration for a person, philosophy of life, or activity; object of idolization: a person, philosophy, or activity regarded with extreme or excessive admiration] [Religion: a system of religious or spiritual beliefs, especially an informal and transient belief system regarded by others as misguided, unorthodox, extremist, or false, and directed by a charismatic, authoritarian leader]; SAGE intentional design as secular politico-religions, considered Christocentric; epigonic – party politics/democratic-fascism designed for countries to function as “corporate entity” Nation-States — populations must be enclosed within “the systemic” to ensure compliance; seemingly active participants, propagating the systemic, agents of their own destruction; their lack of deep intellectual involvement ensures tailored politicians, information and media, and the acceptance/assumption of defined Party character(-istics) — Democratic-Fascism is the “Serpentine Way” [L. serpentinus, from serpens 1. Resembling a serpent; usually, winding and turning one way and the other, like a moving serpent; anfractuous; as a serpentine road or course; Anfractuous (L. anfractus, of amb, about, and fractus, broken) Winding; full of windings and turnings; written less correctly, anfractuose], voting left then right (party politics), etc., as course, moving the nation forward.

MM Addendum 1 [web page](#)

MM Addendum 1 [blog home](#)

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:59 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

James Wesley Rawles: The Thin Veneer

America is More Like Haiti than We'd Like to Think

by James Wesley Rawles [article link](#)

on January 19, 2010 1:09 AM

The recent earthquake in the island nation of Haiti illustrates the fragility of all societies. While Haiti is unusual in its lack of infrastructure and its high dependence on foreign aid--more than half of its annual government budget comes from foreign aid - it is still similar in many ways to other nations: From the 1960s to the turn of the 21st century, as in many other nations, Haiti became an urbanized nation. Before the 1960s a substantial portion of Haitian society still lived on rural semi-self sufficient farmsteads. But as urbanization and specialization went on, fewer and fewer people lived off the land and more and more citizens became dependent on foreign aid and a scant number of industrial jobs. This trend has been repeated around the globe, making nearly all societies increasingly vulnerable to disasters, man-made or natural. The resiliency of traditional agrarian societies has sadly become a thing of the past. Here in America, 2% of the population now feeds the other 98%. This is now something that First, Second, and Third World nations have in common. America is more like Haiti than we'd like to think. Human nature is the same in every culture and nation: fundamentally sinful.

The Thin Veneer

With a few exceptions, most notably in Oceania, traditional Christian values have slipped away in much of the western world. When times get tough the citizenry of most nations loses all compunctions about using violence to expropriate the property of others. As I've written before, modern societies have just a thin veneer of civilization that covers something quite odorous beneath. Here in modern western societies, folks like to think of themselves as highly civilized, but when the Schumer hits the fan, there's no difference between people in the First World and the Third World.

As prepared individuals, we have the opportunity to set ourselves apart with a higher standard of behavior than those who resort to their baser instincts in time of crisis. It's important that there are some of us that have both the means and the willingness to help restore order and free commerce in the event of societal disruption.

The recent events in Haiti should be a reminder that in times of crisis things can easily fall apart. What happened in Haiti was dramatic, and a naturally occurring event, but because of the vulnerabilities of all modern societies, there could just as well be a reversion to savagery in a situation such as an economic collapse. We need to have our Beans, Bullets, and Band-aids squared away, so we can focus on more important things in a disaster than just finding food and water. Not only do we need to just prepare for surviving the next day, but also to be useful in rebuilding infrastructures and free commerce. This requires preparing with logistics as well as training and practicing to be ready to step into the breach. ...

Elementary school teachers here in the United States use the phrase "teach for the moment," to describe turning current events into teaching opportunities. I recommend that any conversations amongst your neighbors, coworkers, or church brethren be used as opportunities to spread the philosophy of family preparedness. Water cooler chit-chat should not just be "ain't it awfuling" sessions. You should instead use such conversations to encourage others to actively prepare for similar situations. And if anyone says, "Oh, but it couldn't happen here," then just remind them about the aftermath Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Not only has it happened here before, but it is likely to recur often within our lifetimes.

The Haitian earthquake of 2010 is a stark reminder of the fragility of all societies. It shows us that we need to be well-prepared and vigilant. And for those of us that are not Secret Squirrels, we should also be quietly and persistently leading public opinion, locally.

SurvivalBlog.com [home page](#)

The Daily Web Log for Prepared Individuals Living in Uncertain Times.



Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:47 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Monday, January 18, 2010

[James Quinn: Feeds The Rich, Buries The Poor](#)

FEEDS THE RICH, BURIES THE POOR

by James Quinn [article link](#)

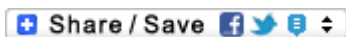
Americans have a choice. They can allow their government to bully and threaten them into conforming to their view of reality like Winston Smith or they can go down swinging like Cool Hand Luke and Randall McMurphy. The cowboy spirit of the Old West is what is required today. We need tough hardened individualists who are willing to say enough is enough. Our government has been corrupted by weak men slithering around the halls of Congress soliciting for money, an evil banking cartel creating fiat money, corporate fascists paying off criminals in Washington DC, and the military industrial complex enforcing Washington's power across the globe. The country longs for an Andrew Jackson or a Dwight Eisenhower. Instead we are stuck with Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi. The citizens of the country have chosen a false security in place of liberty and freedom. This country achieved greatness because Americans took chances, had the freedom to succeed or fail, picked themselves up when they failed, and lived their lives within a moral framework of fairness and honesty. That flame of independence and freedom is dying out. Americans no longer believe in shared sacrifice, working hard, honoring a sense of civic duty, morality, or modesty. A private banking cartel controls the purse strings and protects its bank owners and its protectors in Congress. The President wages wars across the globe without Constitutional approval from Congress that is required. Agencies of government operate in secret, assassinating foreign enemies, fomenting unrest in other countries, and spying on Americans. Look at the fear we're feeding. Look at the lives we're leading. ...

According to our own Declaration of Independence:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Do these human rights exist today in our country? Is our system conducive to justice and human dignity? I contend that we have sacrificed our liberty for security. We’ve sacrificed justice for safety. We’ve sacrificed freedom for enslavement by fascist corporatism. We’ve sacrificed peace for never ending war. Your government knows everything you are doing. They can monitor your phone calls. They can monitor your emails. They can watch your every move with satellites. They can brand you a terrorist, break down your front door and take you away. All of this can be done in the name of safety. We have allowed this to happen with virtually no debate or dissent from the masses. These choices have led our once great Republic to the edge of the abyss. As we stare into this abyss we have a choice. If we continue on our current path we are destined for a brutish future of totalitarianism, wars, resource depletion, and violent conflicts across the globe. If we display persistence and never say die attitude of Cool Hand Luke, we have a opportunity to capture this country back from the corrupt ruling privileged class. It may take a Revolution to do so, but so be it. If we choose not to fight, we are fated to wear leg chains for the rest of our incarcerated existence. ...

James Quinn [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [8:01 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Maintain The Rich At All Costs

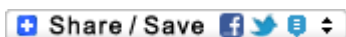
MM Book 2 Chapter 10-14

**** WICKED IRRESPONSIBILITY ** – WHO IS TO SUFFER, AND HOW MUCH ?? – economic decisions vs. the poor and disabled; maintain the rich at all costs, those who provide the systemic “capital” must be *provided* with the capital for the “benefit” of all: THE RICH ARE RICH FOR *OUR* BENEFIT IS THE CLAIM !! – “job” as social safety net, not assistance, yet there are a lack of jobs, and most that exist are “minimum” wage: THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET IS FULL OF HOLES, AND MANY ARE FALLING THROUGH !! – ** NO HUMAN LIFE HAS MINIMUM VALUE ** !! — MAMMON = THE CORPORATE, and everything done in its cause, ie., business, nationalism, infrastructure to maintain, enforce, etc., is absolute evil, plain-and-simple: ** OUR WHOLE LIFE SYSTEMIC IS EVIL **, AND THAT MEANS *WE* ARE EVIL, EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US, WE ARE COMPLICIT !! — ECONOMIC GENOCIDE, the *death* of humanity [suicide]: CORPORATE ECONOMY IS THE DEATH OF *ALL* [incl., planetary life-support (biodiversity)] !!**

MM Book 2 Chapter 10-15

Hopes and dreams based on money availability means that most will NOT realize their hopes and dreams: MONETARY PROSPERITY [hopes and dreams realized] FOR THE FEW MAINTAINED AT THE EXPENSE OF THE MANY [in despair and nightmare] !! — personal responsibility and self-reliance based on the corporate is impossible: the systemic requires you to “support” it, it does NOT want to support you [“self-reliant slavery” is a corporate definition: it is our responsibility to enslave ourselves]; THERE ARE *NO* SOLUTIONS WITHIN THE SYSTEMIC, THE SYSTEMIC IS THE PROBLEM, THE ILLNESS !! – MONEY DEFINES ALL !! – a cooperative society *cannot* be built on/by business; business is NOT cooperative, nor communal; BUSINESS NEGATES OUR VERY HUMANITY [our being and doing]: business is a “doing” without a “being” – THE “PROOF” IS IN THE PUDDING, LOOK AROUND, THE PUDDING IS RANCID !!

Mammon or Messiah Book 2 [web page](#)
Mammon or Messiah Book 2 [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:46 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Sunday, January 17, 2010

Private Interest In Public Office

MM Book 2 Chapter 10-6

The “public” has increasingly come to mean “low-income interests” – the “general public” has been corporatized into “private interest” interests and dependent upon it – the governments at all levels in what is now Americanada Inc., are mostly “private interest in public office” and their unrestrained policies and legislation reflect this change; ** TRUE DEMOCRATIC-FASCISM HAS BEEN FIRMLY ENTRENCHED ** — violent media = aggressive behavior [incl., criminal behavior]; we are “forced” every day into compliance, even forced to ignore the injustice we see around us – the violence includes forced opinions [imposed], competition and waste of human and natural resources, environmental destruction, business and nationalism [we are forced into complicity in order to survive: the systemic provides all (imposed sole provider)] – BLESSED ARE THE *PEACE* MAKERS vs. EVIL WORKS, the violence: the unjust or callous [lacking pity, mercy (** LACKING GOD **); unfeeling; insensitive; *privilege and the resultant attitude*] use of force or power, as in violating another’s rights, sensibilities, etc., and the harm done by this; violation of conscience, and the distortion of meaning; THE IMPOSITION TO SUSTAIN AND MAINTAIN: ECONOMIC TERROR-ISM [the fear emotive], MAMMONIZATION OF LIFE, OF GOD, FOR PRIVATE PRIVILEGE; GOD = AN INNATE ** SENSITIVITY ** TO LIFE; GOD IS LIFE.

Mammon or Messiah Book 2 [web page](#)
Mammon or Messiah Book 2 [blog home](#)

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:57 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Saturday, January 16, 2010

Re-Created in the Image of Man 1

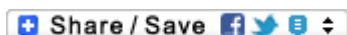
"Increase" is a *gift* from God [the "land" shall yield her increase]; profit/usury is a taking of men [profit taking (earning)]; PROFIT MAKES EVIL PAY; profit is a denial of God's increase !! - "increase" is a blessing from God, a stewardship gift [reciprocal] from knowing and following God's Way of Life [of Christ(-systemic)] !! -- the Iraq/Afghanistan War is a "war of maintenance" [of the SAGE systemic]; MAMMON FEEDING ITSELF, TAKING FOR ITSELF !! - any form of "taking", any aspect of it, in *no* way reflects the character of God(-ing) [10C], it is theft: CHRIST IS A *GIFT* !! -- our "environment" [what we are surrounded in-and-by; physically/spiritually] is most important, our BEING and DOING determinant [esp., mental environment]; the "Kingdom of God" is the environment we must achieve, an environment of truth and peace, of righteousness, of agape gifting !! - politico-media inducement into an attitude [self-group think NOT God think] - double-speak [minded], not outright lying but avoiding the truth; sound "bites" measured in seconds, not a whole "meal" of conversation; rhetoric and verbal abuse, misleading metaphors, simple personifications [ie., Bush good, Saddam bad], over-simplification of complex issues for masking intentions; stigmatizing opposition [visuals; prejudiced imagery] - language on a "lower level" to stir the "base instincts" on which politico-business thrives !! - ** WE ARE INCLINED TO BE DECEIVED BY OUR SELFISHNESS [environ] ** !! - we should be ashamed to have been re-created in the "image of man".

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:21 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Re-Created in the Image of Man 2

Inundation by the unattainable [media message, advertising, etc.]; economic oppression and abuse - GOD *IS* ATTAINABLE !! -- the "limiting of life" vs. the ** RIGHT OF EXISTENCE ** GIVEN BY GOD !! - corporate money is of itself an evil [instrumentality]; we should abhor its use by us, and its (ab)use of us !! -- OUR LIFE [in all of its complexity], OUR LIVES, IS/ARE THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT(S) WE HAVE; WE MUST DO ALL WE CAN TO *ENHANCE* EACH OTHER, BY GIFTING EACH OTHER; THIS IS THE WAY OF GOD, OF AGAPE LOVE !! -- exploring righteous aspects of ourselves that are hidden, undeveloped - life by-and-through the corporate Nation-State [systemic claim] is opposed [enemy of] to life by-and-through Christ(-systemic) !! - the deep psychosis(-sys), the psychological lock must be opened; the pure author-ity of the Word of God [authority *not* authoritarian; God is not the author(-ity) of confusion (Babylon); GOD IS SERVANT EXAMPLE] supersedes the imposed, polluted [vested interest; claim] author-ity of man [incl., the COG Inc.] !! - OUR INTELLIGENCE MUST BE DEEPENED [individual/collective vs. our surface interpretations, surface/sub-surface intelligence] !! - THE DEEP THINGS OF GOD, HEALING OF MIND !! - many walk in faith [yet, in error], but few walk in Spirit and in Truth [Being and Doing] !!



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:17 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Friday, January 15, 2010

Mike Eggleston: What Has Happened In America?

What Has Happened In America?

by Mike Eggleston [article link](#)

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

After years of illegal wars, higher taxes, corruption and the beginning of the current Financial Crisis many people began to finally see, under the Bush Administration, that there was in fact a shadowy cabal of private bankers, openly calling for a New World Order (at one time thought to be pure "conspiracy") at the UN and G20 and by Think Tanks such as the Council on Foreign Relations.

Bailout Legislation backed and written by special interests on Wall Street and the Private Central Bank (the "Federal" Reserve), and other corporations calling for Trillions of unlimited tax payer dollars claiming it was all needed in order to avert financial collapse. The blackmailing of a system, an entire country already in debt that was un-payable (and technically bankrupt) into believing that by handing over boatloads of money to the very people who systematically engineered the crisis that more pain could be avoided.

Then the promises of "Hope" and "Change" began to ring out. Distracted by chants of "yes we can" were millions of people as the economy was looted by the various shareholders in the Federal Reserve Central Bank and their Wall Street cronies. The Right was in a frenzy and the Left became hypnotized. Divide and Conquer tactics was being turned up to high, at a level never before seen in American politics. ...

News of Recovery from the Federal Reserve and US Puppet Government and complicit mainstream media is strong, Look! The Dow is up over 10K ...

All of it illusions, carefully designed to allow more time to shove an agenda down the throats of the American People, an economy propped up as \$23 Trillion freshly printed bills and counting have been looted from the American people, total National Debt with all things considered now stands at around \$100 Trillion (never ending un-payable debt - BANKRUPT) , Real Unemployment numbers are currently around 20% counting all those who can no longer collect benefits, stopped looking for jobs or were forced to take part time jobs. The Housing Market is not even close to bottoming out, the Job Market is 50-1 for every job available, and they are no where close to paying what the jobs that disappeared (and are never coming back) were. DHS is labeling Americans who are speaking out against the Government as "Extremists", while

setting up FUSION Centers across the US, the Media and the "Left vs Right" is hijacking or spinning every grass roots protest and Liberty movement for their own agendas, while the "R's" say anything that might get them reelected next term and the "D's" shout and grumble like the previous administration at their critics. ...

The Corruption is so deep within every facet of our social and political and financial institutions that voting no longer works, its not the puppet politicians who write the legislation and bills anyways. Voting is merely a participatory act so the slaves still think they are actively deciding who gets to screw them over. We must obtain permits, pay fees and ask permission to do virtually everything involved in our personal lives, including our 1st amendment right to protest and peaceful assembly which makes it a privilege and no longer a right.

And people are labeled as "Extremists" when they talk about Revolution. They are ridiculed, mocked and feared for critical free thinking. Its not even about overthrowing the Government, since the Government ceased being that of the American Peoples long ago. It is about restoring liberty, freedom and any last hopes of saving our children and grandchildren from guaranteed slavery, from a World System built on corruption unthinkable and unwavering in conscience, and imagined (or warned about) for years only on the big screens of Hollywood.

The time has come for Non-Compliance, for Civil Disobedience, for the taking of the "Red Pill" and acknowledging what is in front of us. It should be clear as say to anyone at this point who chooses to think for themselves. No more sugar coating, no more pretending we can fix this system by voting or the usual means, because that is wishful thinking, exactly like and no different from the Hope and Change rhetoric offered by the latest puppet of the New World Order cabal. Playing by rules designed to keep us confined without allowing real change to occur, is the definition of insanity, doing the same thing repeatedly expecting different results. ...

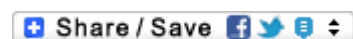
This is not to say we should stop protesting or exhausting every last means at our disposal, but we must be brutally honest at this point in the game. The current system is on life support, there is no saving it, only what will be a new system to rise in its place, hopefully guided by the virtues of compassion, liberty and truth. We must each be that change. There is no other way. We must not bow, bend or break to the tyranny that faces us, they would not have the kindness towards us if given the chance, and chances they have had.

The time is coming very soon, when the world will see clearly what those who sit in the Ivory towers have planned for all of us. I have already made my decision about where I stand. My Lines in the sand are drawn. We must not fear, or hastily make decisions. We must know that we stand at the point in history that will decide the fate of the world stage, do we go along with the evils we see because we feel they are bigger than us, or do we light the fire of liberty within our hearts and minds and stand as one against the darkness?

AWAKENED1 BLOG [blog home](#)

Consciousness & Politics: Unfiltered and without Illusions

Welcome to the other side of the land of make believe

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:26 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Mammon or Messiah addendum

Mammon or Messiah [home](#)

MM Addendum 1 and 2 [link](#) Blog

MM Addendum 1

The SAGE: A Private, Closed Society - The Private Agency that Owns and Controls the World

Keywords/Tags:

Trilateral Commission, Roundtable, Fortune 500, Council on Foreign Relations, CFR, Bilderberg, Bloodline, Desposyni, Genealogy

Fresia, Parenti, Zeitgeist, Sharlet, Ratlines, Rex Deus, Holy Grail, Messianic Legacy, Plutocracy, Oligarchy, British-Israel, Anglo-Israel

Ephraim and Manasseh, Shinar, Heraldry, Holocaust, Princes of Tyre, Divine Right Rulership, House of Israel, War of Eradication, WWI, WWII

Nebuchadnezzar's Image, Formulation of Opinion, Light of Darkness, Illuminati Comprehension, Faith of the Fallen, World Governance

MM Addendum 2

The Primevil - The Primaevus Lineage (The Unholy Bloodline and the Abrogation of Our Ancient Future) - The Apotheosis(-sys)

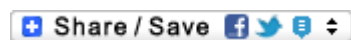
Keywords/Tags

Progenitor, Annunaki, Nephilim, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Exilarchs, Apostles, Zealots, Muhammed (Islam)

Jesus the Christ = Magdalene (m1.), James Zebedee = Magdalene (m2.), James the Just Progeny, Pharamond, Merovingian Monarchy

Pendragon, King Arthur I Grail, King Arthur II Holy Grail, Anglo-Saxon, Carolingian, Charlemagne, European Royal Houses Primary Descent Lines, Aristocracy, de Rothschild

Pharaonic/Caesaric Lineage, Celtic-Nazarene Christianity, St. Columba, St. Patrick, Stone of Scone, Lia-Fail, Coronation Stone, Stone Sanction



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:24 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Mammon or Messiah Book 1

Mammon or Messiah [home](#)

Mammon or Messiah 01-04 Our Choice of Social Reality - Two Divergent Ways of Life, Social Systemics and **Mammon or Messiah 05** Private-State Over Public-Nation - Mammon's Nation-State Enslavement [link](#) Blog

Keywords/Tags:

Disestablishment, War, Gospel, Mythology, Demonology, Idolatry, Jehovah, Slavery, Activism, 9/11, Babel, Income Tax, Hierarchy, False Flag

Charlemagne, SAGE, Graven Image, Incarnation, Constitution, Prejudice, Strawman, Stewardship, Desposyni, Grimm, Possession, Baal, Elijah

Elite, Human Rights, Freedom, America, Ekklesia, Israel, Kingdom of God, Repentance, Mind, Anarchy, Alternative Currency, Federal Reserve

War, Fascism, Communitarian, Community, Apostolic, Church of God, Repentance, Forgiveness, Genocide, Divine Right, Baptism, Corporatism

Mammon, Messiah, Love, Salvation, The Devil, Satan, Evil, Money, Corporation, Christ, Religion, Conspiracy, NWO, Business, Society

 [Share / Save](#)   

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:23 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Mammon or Messiah Book 2](#)

Mammon or Messiah [home](#)

Mammon or Messiah 06-10 The Midnight Hour [link](#) Blog

Church of God, Family of God, Spiritual Ancestry, Spiritual Heritage, Repentance, Ekklesia, Ministry of Gifts, Begettall, Watchman, Prophecy, Little Flock, Shepherding Law, Apostolic Christianity, Corporate Yoke, Holocaust, Tribulation, Great Transgression

Living Faith, Power of God, Common Fellowship, Common Ministrants, Free Will, Tree of Knowledge, Good and Evil, Man as Creator, Evil, Martyrdom, Fear of God, Antichrist, Immortality, Salvation, Divine Healing, Genetic Memory, Book of Life, Forbidden Fruit

Form of God's House, Highway of the Upright, Spiritual Illness, Return of Christ, Iniquity Purged by Mercy and Truth, House of Prayer, Den of Thieves, Merchandise, Moses and Elijah, Withdrawal and Expatriation, Disinvestment, Disestablishment, Guardianship

Ministry of Christ, Image and Likeness, Bread of Life, Communitas, Fellowship, Divine Right, Inhumanity, Direct Consensus, Community Congregation, Democracy, Sovereign Individual, Commonwealth Relationship, Body of Christ, Anointed, Living Stones

Living Gospel, Engrafted Word, Gain as Righteousness, Money, Business Psychosis, Instrumentality of Evil, IMF, World Bank, WTO, Trilateral Commission, NWO, Globalization, Slavery, Oppression, Economic Apartheid, Corporatism, Citizen Power, Conspiracy

Hedge Priest, Crimes Against God, In Violation of God, Ecology and Economy, Logos and Logia, Equity, Banality of Evil, Crime of Christ, Kings of the Earth, Faith of the Fallen, Kingdom of God, Israel, Lost Ten Tribes, Anglo-Israel, British-Israel

Birthrights, Worship of Demons, Babylon, Money Changers, Temple of God, Passover, Flesh and Blood of Jesus Christ, Faith of Christ, Forgiveness, Personal Redemption, Ministry of Reconciliation, Holy and Righteous, Character of God, Ten Commandments

Satanic Consciousness, Gospel as Product, Revelation, Disclosure, Spiritual Armour, Spiritual Armor, Conciliance, Master Potter, Government of God, Hierarchy, Unleavened Bread, Corporate Church and Ministry, Synagogue of Satan

Manna, Sincerity and Truth, Holy Days, Plan of Salvation, Democratic-Fascism, Vested Corporate Interest, Agape Love, Jeremiah Community, Truth of God, Touchstone of Christ, Oracle, Society of the Gift, Communitarian, Human Bondage, Pentecost, Tabernacles

Systemic Failure and Collapse, Manipulated Markets, Economic Genocide, Evil, Wicked World, Mark of the Beast, Extinction of Mankind, Unequal Yoke, Equitable Exchange, Sustainable Development, Citizenship, A New Creation, Christ-Systemic, Robes of Righteousness

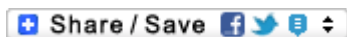


Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:21 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Thursday, January 14, 2010

[We Must Become Mercy and Truth 1](#)

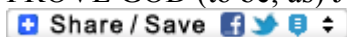
Events have dragged/pushed us beyond the threshold of sanity, the "event horizon" [of mind]; *ONLY* OUR GOD(-ing) CAN SAVE US !! -- suppression of civil rights by an "undeclared" war [declared use of force vs. specific targets, ie., Saddam, Taliban, notwithstanding] against terrorism could last a long time, and become permanent, with NO opposition !! - RESISTANCE [Christ-ian] IS A MATTER OF CONSCIENCE !! - the claim that "peace activists" encourage war, by creating an exploitable environment [for those who would use war], is false [strength of character (God's) vs. imposition of another's character (of war)]; WAGING WAR REQUIRES MANY TO BE INVOLVED, AN EMOTIVE CATALYST [ie., nationalist religion]; ** WAR REQUIRES SUPPORT !! ** - WAR WILL BE *DEFEATED* BY MERCY [repentance and forgiveness] AND TRUTH !! - the infliction of war, for whatever reason, is a crime against our humanity, a crime against our God(-ing): THERE IS *NO* EXCUSE FOR INFLECTION OF WAR, THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR THE EVIL REASONS OF WAR !!



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:45 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[We Must Become Mercy and Truth 2](#)

Dismissal/negation by [selfish] (ab)use [of Christ]; Christ(-ian-ity) is a GIFT - CHRIST IS NOT USED, ONLY GIFTED !! - fraudulent *use* of Christ is the most prevalent form of Christ-expression, [incl., the COG Inc.], CHRIST AS SELFISH IDOL, AND WORSHIPPED AS SUCH, IN VAIN [IN VANITY; PREJUDICE] !! - THE TRUTH [*OF* CHRIST] IS DAMNED AS ANATHEMA [non-redemption; doomed to destruction] BY *OUR* "CHRIST-IAN-ITY" RECONCILED TO THE WORLD [kosmos/Mammon] !! - WE DO *NOT* KNOW WHAT WE ARE DOING, YET GOD WILL FORGIVE US, BECAUSE GOD *IS* MERCY AND TRUTH !! - we must *become* mercy and truth as Christ-ians, we must heal this evil world together with God; WE MUST REVENGE [*of* God; vindicate(-tion) of God's Way and Truth: to defend; to justify; to support or maintain as true or correct, against ** denial, censure or objections **; to assert; TO PROVE GOD (to be; as) JUST AND VALID] ALL DISOBEDIENCE - WE MUST BE, EXIST, *AS* CHRIST !!



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:42 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Giordano Bruno: Why We Fight

What Does It Mean To Be A Survivalist?

by Giordano Bruno [article link](#)

Neithercorp Press - 10/1/2009

Survivalism is not about taking on a new identity, it is about being prepared. It is not about paranoia and fear. It is about awareness, responsibility, and common sense. The average American today is often so disconnected from his own survival and self defense that when confronted with the idea of “preparedness” he becomes incredulous, as if the entire concept is so fantastical it should be buried in a book of folklore along with faeries and unicorns. The fact of the matter is, true survival will soon be the first thing on many people’s minds in this country, instead of the last, and every man, whether he be a farmer in the country or a yuppie office jockey in the suburbs, will have to decide NOW what he is going to do, mentally above all else, to be ready for what is coming.

A survivalist understands that until we are self-reliant, we cannot help others. Our life is our own, and if we fail in protecting it then it is only we who are to blame. No survivalist “expects” others to save him from peril, and this includes the government. No true survivalist will find himself after an inflationary collapse of the dollar crying on a street corner demanding free food and a job. He knows that he will not get it anyway, and anything he does get will only be through his own struggle and sacrifice. Being truly free is a double edged sword; while the possibilities of life become endless, one must be capably independent in order to make use of those possibilities freedom presents. This means taking one’s destiny into one’s own hands. It means hardship and heartbreak. It means striving, never stopping, always moving forward through any obstacle regardless of how seemingly impassable. It means having the will to fight back against oppression that appears insurmountable. Your world begins and ends with you, and the same goes for your problems. You are the maker of your own epoch.

... While the survivalist movement is often linked with the “objectivist” philosophies of Ayn Rand, and such philosophies lean towards the “every man for himself attitude,” wisdom dictates that this is simply not practical. It is, at the very least, an exaggeration of the truth. Human beings have an inborn sense of individualism. Cultivating this is at the very core of survivalism. However, we also have an incredibly strong inborn sense of compassion and connectivity to our fellow man. It is a part of our conscience, and it is something we cannot escape. It is in the nature of those who are aware of danger to try to protect those who are not. ...

Why We Fight

We do not fight because of what humanity is. Most of us despise what humanity is. We fight for what it COULD BE. We fight for the very real possibility of something far better than what we now know; a world where individualism is the norm, where elite minorities of men bent on dominion are given no ground, no foothold, no quarter. A world where original thought is encouraged instead of crushed, logic and emotion are given equal importance instead of generically separated and compartmentalized, honesty and courage are rewarded instead of mocked, and the love of our fellow man is natural and real, instead of fabricated and forced for the sake of appearances.

We fight for a world we may never live to see, not because it is reasonable, but because every impulse at our very core tells us it is right. It is necessary. It is one of the reasons we are here, now. The survivalist is not just a self-reliant and insightful man of resolve, he is the levy upon which the ripping torrential waters of history collide. He is the wall that stays the tide. If the survivalist collapses, then nothing can hold, but if he remains, solid as stone, then there is a chance for everyone.

Whether we like it or not, in times of pain the world turns to those men who have either the conviction and great strength of an honorable soul, or those who are clever and evil enough to fake it. By becoming a survivalist in such times, one also inadvertently becomes a symbol to others. By breaking free of the masses, ironically, we also in a sense become partly responsible for them. The example we set could determine the very direction of the future. The way of the survivalist becomes a steadfast light in the darkness, until finally, all men can see.

NEITHERCORP [home page](#)
NEITHERCORP PRESS [web page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:36 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Secular Prophets: Indicant 5

Prophecy is not prediction, it is an "indicant" - two ways of life presented: the blessings or the curses - the "high" road or the "low" road.

Will Globalists Trigger Yet Another World War?

by Giordano Bruno [article link](#)

World War III is the most iconic event in American culture that never happened. Since the early 1950's, generations have been preparing for it, writing books about it, producing films and fictional accounts on it, and even playing video games based on it. The concept of another world war is so ingrained into our popular consciousness that it has become almost mythological. It is a legend, a fantasy story of something far away and incomprehensible, often associated with Tim Lahaye novels and action adventure narratives of religious prophecy and Armageddon. World War III has become "entertainment." ...

Elites often attempt to paint a pretty picture, a glossy flower filled love-fest, when it comes to the creation of World Government. The truth however has been and always will be that the road to globalization is paved with the death of innocents and civilizations. Every movement towards the formation of centralized global government has been preceded by unthinkable destruction. This may seem futile and horribly regressive to us, but to Globalists, war is a highly effective and useful tool.

Conflict on a massive scale creates an atmosphere of tension and terror, giving the average man, even men who are nowhere near danger, a sort of perpetual tunnel vision. World War has the ability to trigger the "fight or flight" psychological response and sustain it in an entire society over long periods of time. Maintaining such a mental state in a human being can cause severe exhaustion and emotional imbalance. Imagine the process of interrogation and torture used on a prisoner in places such as Guantanamo Bay, then, apply that to an entire nation of people. War breaks down our psychological defenses as a society, and makes us vulnerable to suggestion.

By creating war, Globalists change not only the political landscape of nations, but also the emotional and rational checks and balances of every individual who has not prepared himself to handle the pressures of fear. In this way, people can be made to forget how things were before, and accept a new world, a world designed around the corrupt appetites of elite minorities, if only to make the fear stop. ...

I often hear arguments that war is simply a product of temporary mass insanity. That it is often a "blunder," an "oversight." Make no mistake, governments and the power brokers behind them WANT war. Indeed, they commonly design wars that never would have happened without their help. Here are only a few of the many examples:

The Spanish American War:

World War I:

World War II:

Iraq / Afghanistan War:

After each of these wars was concocted, governments and Globalists around the planet pushed for even greater centralization of authority and consolidation of power. After the Spanish American War, Americans were herded towards accepting the idea of U.S. expansionism. After World War I, we were convinced to hurtle ourselves into European affairs and squander money and resources on unnecessary conflicts. We also witnessed the formation of the League of Nations, a pre-UN global body meant as a beginning foundation for world government. After World War II, Europe was nearly wiped

off the map, its people downtrodden and psychologically ripe for centralization. Without WWII, the European Union would have never been possible. The U.S. also joined the United Nations, the body which is now being pushed along with the IMF for oversight of global financial regulation, as well as unified trade law and "harmonization." After the Iraq / Afghan war began, a new threat was fabricated in the guise of "terrorism," a faceless enemy with no real nation or border, no identifiable army, and an elusive and sloppily defined ideology. Anyone can be labeled a terrorist, even an American citizen, thus, a war on terrorism can be sustained indefinitely.

This sets the stage for the next possible global conflict which could be used as the final motivator to pressure the masses into an oppressive New World Order. ...

The goal is to force the people to take sides, to divide them against each other and make them forget the true enemy; the elites who cultivated the problem in the first place. Under the threat of world conflict or rampant terrorism, the average American could be made to feel "disruptive," or even "traitorous" for speaking out against the war, while those who point out the dangers of the police state could simply be labeled terrorists themselves. Such an atmosphere could also distract our attentions away from the eminent economic breakdown. It is difficult to imagine this happening here, but think of how many Germans laughed at Hitler in his early days, as opposed to how many eventually followed him when they were faced with absolute desperation.

In the midst of all this of course would stand the EU and the UN. I believe whether a war is triggered or the economy is simply left to disintegrate, it will be the UN and European interests that "dash to the rescue" with a new stabilized currency and unified government when all seems lost. Just as in the past, Globalists want to erase history, rewrite it, and play the part of the hero. With an extra century or more of constant propaganda, who would know to argue otherwise?

The Solution

What we have just covered is a possible state of affairs based on the circumstances of the moment. It is by no means our fate. What this examination is meant to convey is the gravity of the task before us, and the reality that it is we who must halt the machine in its tracks. We cannot leave it to future generations; to our children or theirs. It must stop right here. This is our fight, and if we do not succeed then there may not be a second chance for humanity. By continuing to educate our neighbors on the threats confronting us, and by preparing for the worst, mentally as well as physically, no future is set in stone.

I sometimes hear words like "impossible," "pointless," "futile," in regards to our situation, and the obstacles which we face. "Impossibility" is an empty term driven by doubt, not by concrete reality. There is no "impossibility," only destiny, and destiny is something we make, not follow. As far as I have seen men fall, I have never in the whole of my life believed there was anything we could not do. As long as we hold by what is true, there is no such thing as the insurmountable.

Regardless of where we are headed, be it moderately troubling times, or the worst of all possible worlds, our job here now is to at once walk through fire and yet stand immovable. This is what we are here to do.

NEITHERCORP [home page](#)

NEITHERCORP PRESS [web page](#)

Identifying Sure Signs Of The Final Economic Plunge

by Giordano Bruno [article link](#)

Neithercorp Press - 01/12/10

Here In The Long Solemn Dark: An Examination Of Global Elitism

by Giordano Bruno [article link](#)

Neithercorp Press - 01/02/10

The Silver Bear Cafe [home page](#)

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:53 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

[Mammon or Messiah research](#)

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

[A Place of Refuge 1](#)

Political Parties are encased selfish doctrines/policies [vested claim], all variations of the one actual/overriding "party": the BUSINESS PARTY [corporate money(-ies) as sole means/instrumentality; the common denominator (denomination; corporate-domination/dominion)] !! - "democracy" [the people, to rule (rule of the ruled)] as a learned process, utilizing imposed corporate means, is a contradiction; democratic-fascism is the resultant/norm [accountable only to the means] - demon-ocracy [daemon: the dark wisdom, FAITH OF THE FALLEN, application of; a guardian spirit, inspiring or inner spirit (lesser; of evil); demiurge(-ic) (one who works for the people; creator, the material world): as ruling force, creative power (of evil; works *of* the world/kosmos)] -- demimonde n. [Fr demi (half; less than usual in size, power; DEMIGOD(-ing): a lesser god(-ing); offspring (of man and god) knowledge of good and evil) + monde (world; society), L mundus (world); any group whose activities are ethically questionable].

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:37 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[A Place of Refuge 2](#)

We must provide for (prepare the Gospel; preparing/survivalism ethos) and/or ask/demand/take "right of *sacred* asylum" [L. from Gr., safe from (the) spoil, and spoil (to plunder); a sanctuary (a sacred place; consecrated to the worship of God and family life; sanctuary-man); a place of refuge; a place of retreat and security; shelter from the "justice" of man (the *reality* of our Christ-ian-ity (ekklesian community) makes us criminals according to the corporate-systemic, held in its service)], asylum *with* God away from man's systemic claim(s): AS HE IS, SO ARE WE IN THIS WORLD !! - public justice as private vengeance -- asylum/sanctuary begins in our minds at Baptism: the COG is congenital [congenite; of the same birth; born with another; begotten together]; our symbiotic relationship with God begins our healing, our Christ-ian community, in symbiosis with the world, heals the world !! - the demon-ocracies of this world, the demigods(-ing), the demiurgic means must be destroyed [our means must be spiritual: the gift(-ing)]: WE CANNOT BE PART OF, COMPLICIT IN, THE LESSENING [systemic-being] !!

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:32 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[A Place of Refuge 3](#)

We Must Forgive But Never Forget !!

The fact that the "public mind" is seemingly of no consequence to the SAGE speaks volumes - these men/women are-and-will-be vilified on the level of Hitler and Stalin in the common perception, their very mention will be hated in the coming years - we must preserve the books, magazines, electronic media (web pages, blogs, articles etc.) that chronicle our era,

what is happening to us right now and those deemed responsible - in the time coming, the probable societal breakdown, censorship and confiscation of materials deemed threatening to the Fascist-State under the guise of social stability will attempt to erase the public-record and the public-mind - we must archive these materials now on a continuing basis, we must stow them away and preserve them for a future accounting, they must be part of our preparing/survival ethos - WE MUST FORGIVE BUT NEVER FORGET !!

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:29 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

BigBear: Federal Government and Corporate America Merge

Greatest Threat to the American Survivalist

by BigBear [article link](#)

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

The greatest threat the American people face is the merging of the Federal Government and Corporate America to further profits during the Great Decline. You need to prepare for an economic tyranny that controls your wages guaranteeing corporate profits first and leaving your family to live off the feeble leftovers. Family needs are secondary to mandated participation in whatever business has the influence to purchase congressional favors.

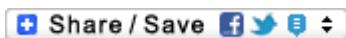
In the name of profit Corporate America, with the help of a willing congress, has destroyed this once great country by dismantling our massive manufacturing base, exporting middle class jobs and gambling in risky unregulated economic schemes. Unfortunately for them the cash cow that was the American economy has run out of milk. Eternal unemployment rates over twenty five percent, runaway inflation and increased civil unrest are here to stay further eroding profits margins. ...

Corporations are facing the perfect storm of their own creation. For thirty years the quest for bigger profits has functionally destroyed the purchasing power of the American consumer base. Rather than fix the economic problems stemming from globalization the corporate world has moved to a model of growth supported through government mandates and collections over innovation and competition. Through naked bribery Corporate America created an unholy merger guaranteeing profits through federal legislation and government mandates laid on the backs of American workers and our gutted economic system.

Democracy has grossly failed everyone with politicians in all parties instantly being corrupted by unregulated industry influence. The only real power we have as American citizens at this point is debt revolt. Unfortunately banking, insurance and a growing list of other industries have already insulated themselves from this collective populace action by having the Federal Government guaranteed loans, investments and mandated participation enforced by the IRS through imprisonment. ...

Organized dissent against the government or any of its corporate handler will be quickly and harshly squashed. The massive surveillance infrastructure rolled out over the past few years, was never to hunt foreign terrorists but rather control a starving and desperate population unwilling to give their last dollar to Corporate America. ...

Bear Ridge Project [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:56 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monday, January 11, 2010

[The Final Hour \(41y8m\): 1990-2031](#)

For Your Consideration:

Four(4) Night Watches: even 6p-9p, midnight 9p-12a, cockcrowing 12a-3a [cry aloud], morning 3a-6a - final "hour"
[1000/24] 41y8m [41.666667y / 500m] Psalm 119 "watches of the night", four(4) Watches [of 3 hours each]: ea. Watch =
10.41666675y = 10y5m = 125m / 3 hrs = 3.47222225 yrs [3y5m20d = 41m20d = 41.666667m] ...

W1 EVEN Jan.1990 + 10y5m = W2 MIDNIGHT May.2000 + 10y5m = **W3 COCKCROWING [to shine, to shed light; voice, disclosure; trim wicks; Matt 24 witness] Oct.2010 *AT* MIDNIGHT [Psm 119:62, Matt 25:6] A CRY MADE**
+ 10y5m = W4 MORNING Mar.2021 + 10y5m = Sep.2031 SUNRISE(6a) ...

Oct.2010 At Midnight (in the midst of) (Last Great Day/LGD Sep.30.2010; last Sabbath of the seven annual Holy Days) -
The Midnight Hour (ref: [Mammon or Messiah Book 2](#)), Trim Wicks ...

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:35 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[POPE BENEDICT XVI: The Fortunes of Humanity](#)

... the dramatic crisis of the global economy and consequently a serious and widespread social instability ... the deeper causes of this situation: in the last analysis, they are to be found in a current self-centred and materialistic way of thinking ... the denial of God distorts the freedom of the human person, yet it also devastates creation ... growing concern caused by economic and political resistance to combatting the degradation of the environment ... it is in man's respect for himself that his sense of responsibility for creation is shown ... the struggle for access to natural resources is one of the causes of a number of conflicts, not least in Africa, as well as a continuing threat elsewhere ... increased military spending and the cost of maintaining and developing nuclear arsenals - enormous resources are being consumed for these purposes, when they could be spent on the development of peoples, especially those who are poorest ... arms production and export helps to perpetuate conflicts and violence ... there is the apparent powerlessness of other countries and the international organizations to restore peace, to say nothing of the indifference, amounting practically to resignation, of public opinion worldwide ... the question must be faced within the framework of a great programme of education aimed at promoting an effective change of thinking and at creating new lifestyles ... in certain countries, mainly in the West, one increasingly encounters in political and cultural circles, as well in the media, scarce respect and at times hostility, if not scorn, directed towards religion and towards Christianity in particular ... there is so much suffering in our world, and human selfishness continues in many ways to harm creation ...

**ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XVI
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS
FOR THE TRADITIONAL EXCHANGE OF NEW YEAR GREETINGS**

Sala Regia [article link](#)
Monday, 11 January 2010

The Church is open to everyone because, in God, she lives for others! She thus shares deeply in the fortunes of humanity, which in this new year continues to be marked by the dramatic crisis of the global economy and consequently a serious and widespread social instability. In my Encyclical Caritas in Veritate, I invited everyone to look to the deeper causes of this situation: in the last analysis, they are to be found in a current self-centred and materialistic way of thinking which fails to acknowledge the limitations inherent in every creature. Today I would like to stress that the same way of thinking also endangers creation. Each of us could probably cite an example of the damage that this has caused to the environment the world over. ...

The denial of God distorts the freedom of the human person, yet it also devastates creation. It follows that the protection of creation is not principally a response to an aesthetic need, but much more to a moral need, in as much as nature expresses a plan of love and truth which is prior to us and which comes from God. ...

For this reason I share the growing concern caused by economic and political resistance to combatting the degradation of the environment. This problem was evident even recently, during the XV Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Copenhagen from 7 to 18 December last. I trust that in the course of this year, first in Bonn and later in Mexico City, it will be possible to reach an agreement for effectively dealing with this question. The issue is all the more important in that the very future of some nations is at stake, particularly some island states. ...

It is proper, however, that this concern and commitment for the environment should be situated within the larger framework of the great challenges now facing mankind. If we wish to build true peace, how can we separate, or even set at odds, the protection of the environment and the protection of human life, including the life of the unborn? It is in man's respect for himself that his sense of responsibility for creation is shown. As Saint Thomas Aquinas has taught, man represents all that is most noble in the universe (cf. *Summa Theologiae*, I, q. 29, a. 3). Furthermore, as I noted during the recent FAO World Summit on Food Security, "the world has enough food for all its inhabitants" (Address of 16 November 2009, No. 2) provided that selfishness does not lead some to hoard the goods which are intended for all. ...

How can we forget, for that matter, that the struggle for access to natural resources is one of the causes of a number of conflicts, not least in Africa, as well as a continuing threat elsewhere? ...

Ladies and Gentlemen, the protection of creation is indeed an important element of peace and justice! Among the many challenges which it presents, one of the most serious is increased military spending and the cost of maintaining and developing nuclear arsenals. Enormous resources are being consumed for these purposes, when they could be spent on the development of peoples, especially those who are poorest. ...

I deplore the fact that arms production and export helps to perpetuate conflicts and violence, as in Darfur, in Somalia or in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Together with the inability of the parties directly involved to step back from the spiral of violence and pain spawned by these conflicts, there is the apparent powerlessness of other countries and the international organizations to restore peace, to say nothing of the indifference, amounting practically to resignation, of public opinion worldwide. ...

... Yet the causes of the situation which is now evident to everyone are of the moral order, and the question must be faced within the framework of a great programme of education aimed at promoting an effective change of thinking and at creating new lifestyles. The community of believers can and wants to take part in this, but, for it to do so, its public role must be recognized. Sadly, in certain countries, mainly in the West, one increasingly encounters in political and cultural circles, as well in the media, scarce respect and at times hostility, if not scorn, directed towards religion and towards Christianity in particular. It is clear that if relativism is considered an essential element of democracy, one risks viewing secularity solely in the sense of excluding or, more precisely, denying the social importance of religion. But such an approach creates confrontation and division, disturbs peace, harms human ecology and, by rejecting in principle approaches other than its own, finishes in a dead end. ...

There is so much suffering in our world, and human selfishness continues in many ways to harm creation. For this reason, the yearning for salvation which affects all creation is that much more intense and present in the hearts of all men and women, believers and non-believers alike. The Church points out that the response to this aspiration is Christ "the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created" (Col 1:15-16). Looking to him, I exhort every person of good will to work confidently and generously for the sake of human dignity and freedom. May the light and strength of Jesus help us to respect human ecology, in the knowledge that natural ecology will likewise benefit, since the book of nature is one and indivisible. In this way we will be able to build peace, today and for the sake of generations to come.

The Vatican [home page english](#)

The Vatican [latest updates](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:16 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Sunday, January 10, 2010

[Secular Prophets: Indicant 4](#)

The International Forecaster

Still In A Credit Crisis, New Liquidity Threatens Inflation

by Bob Chapman

Posted: January 6 2010 [article link](#)

Over a 15-month period ending 9/30/09, together the Fed and Treasury borrowings were \$2.81 trillion. This has been the greatest creation of financial aggregates in history. This tidal wave of money and credit was accompanied by just above zero interest rates. Then there was the Fed's trillion-dollar purchase of toxic mortgage securities, which the Fed refuses to tell us what they paid for them and from whom they bought them. Total monetization has been well over \$2.3 trillion that we know about. ...

The Treasury and the Fed have poured almost \$13 trillion into the economy and haven't made a dent in the problem of bad debt. They just transferred the problem to the taxpayer. In that process the banks and brokerage houses dispensed ever-bigger bonuses as a tribute to their incompetence and failure. ...

The result of this tremendous infusion of money and credit has been the survival of banking, Wall Street and insurance, and a fall in household net worth of almost \$7 trillion. We'd call that an uneven, unbalanced performance. The culprits have been bailed out and the public has paid for it. ...

It will be a very difficult year in 2010, as the excesses of 2009, to save the system unwind.

The probability of 14% inflation in 2010 has already been baked into the cake. The Fed and other central banks are really trying to avoid hyperinflation. The real trouble will come in 2011. If the Fed and other central banks cannot raise interest rates, cannot reign in the liquidity in their economies, and need further stimulus, which we believe will be the case, then inflation will run wild. As a result gold and silver prices will go through the roof.

That leads us to our latest information gleaned through private Fed meetings. They believe the period between July and October is when the financial fireworks will begin. The Fed will act unilaterally for its own survival irrespective of any political implications. In the last quarter of the year we could even see Martial law, which is more likely in the first six months of 2011. If Congress passes any kind of health care, the public will go ballistic and be prime for revolution. Our position is that bank lending will not improve nor will unemployment. If this is accompanied by official devaluation and default everything could break loose. The elitists realizing this will arrange another 9/11-type event with the usual cast of characters and we expect conflict will spread into Pakistan and that Israel will attack Iran enveloping the Middle East in flames. That would send oil prices considerably higher and cause a collapse of world stock markets, with the exception of gold and silver shares. The excuse to impose Martial law would be apparent. The country could go into lockdown. Transportation could be limited, food and gas rationed, banks closed and many other major inconveniences. The current mainline media, Wall Street and governmental propaganda about economic recovery would end, they never having to prove that a recovery ever existed. During the first six months of 2010, Americans and others will continue to live in their world of unreality. These hopeless fools are again being taken down the garden path. The world as we know it is about to change dramatically, so prepare for it. ...

In the next 1-1/2 years we expect the US to officially devalue and default along with many other countries. There will be emergency meetings, one after another, as governments attempt to cope with, internal debt and a collapsing financial

system. Not one government is attempting to solve the problems, only treat the disease. The system has to be purged as soon as possible and as an interim alternative the US dollar has to be abandoned as a world reserve currency, and replaced by the weighted currencies of the G-20, backed by 10 to 15 percent in gold. Later the gold reserve can be increased to 25 to 30 percent. ...

The International Forecaster [home page](#)

The World as We Know It is About to Change Dramatically

Author: Mac Slavo [article link](#)

January 10th, 2010

SHTF Plan [home page](#)

[+](#) Share / Save [f](#) [t](#) [m](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [5:43 PM](#) [0 comments](#) [✉](#)

We Must Bear The Image Of God 1

Col 1:21 ... ALIENATED [estranged] AND ENEMIES ** IN YOUR MIND ** BY WICKED [hurtful; evil] WORKS [kosmos] ... RECONCILED BY CHRIST, SANCTIFIED [set apart; separated] BY TRUTH !! ... 2 Cor 10:5-6 Casting down imaginations, and ** every high thing ** that exalteth itself *against* the knowledge [G1108 Gnosis; knowing; understanding] of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a *readiness* [G2092 prepared; made ready; opportune] to revenge [G1556 to vindicate one's right; do one justice; to protect, defend; to avenge a thing] *all* disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled - WE ARE CALLED TO CHANGE THE WORLD (kosmos), TO REVENGE *ALL* DISOBEDIENCE BY-AND-THROUGH OUR OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST [*all* iniquity purged by GOD'S MERCY and TRUTH] !! - psychological adjustment: growing in grace and knowledge, overcoming, fine-tuning [symbiosis(sys)]; OUR SHARING OF GOD'S VERY MIND !!

[+](#) Share / Save [f](#) [t](#) [m](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#) [✉](#)

We Must Bear The Image Of God 2

War is the hallmark of the uncivilized mind [a lack of God, of civil realization]; a disconnect in thinking; alleging a set of beliefs but NOT acting on them, preaching but NOT living, secularized in all things [FAITH OF THE FALLEN]; calling for national service in pursuit of "common purpose" is a lie - a sense of strategy is lacking for those opposed to the systemic, yet still bound to it [by *its* instrumentality]; our belief system tells us NOT to believe [incl., the COG Inc., EXALTED AGAINST GOD] !! - OUR WORLD IS A THOUGHT *NOT* IN OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST, WE DO NOT AGREE WITH GOD !! - character obedience vs. following imposed orders, command structures [authority claim], obedience *imposed by fear* [even of God] !! - intolerance, the transfer [imposition] of prejudiced religion, reactionary change, punitive war, all in the Name of God [A GOD OF VENGEANCE]; partially following Christ [selective application] when it is convenient [seven-day absentists]; secular-humanist's "God-ing" more than the claimed fundamentalist's [God at a price] !! -- we must understand and be cognizant of the *impact* each one of us, individually and collectively, has on those around us, and on their and our world: FAITH, HOPE, and especially LOVE [as impact], we must bear the image of God [as He is, so are we in the world]; unleavened bread of SINCERITY and TRUTH *not* leavened bread of MALICE and WICKEDNESS !!

[+](#) Share / Save [f](#) [t](#) [m](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:55 PM](#) [0 comments](#) [✉](#)

Saturday, January 9, 2010

CAFR, Government, and You 1

The Biggest Game in Town

"GROSS" INCOME of government is now 1/3rd "TAX" income and 2/3rds NON-TAX income derived from: return on INVESTMENTS and money generated from government Enterprise projects. ...

Pensions, self-funding debt financial authorities, self insurance authorities CAFRs [Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports] should be looked at also. As of 2005 there are over 84,000 "individual" Annual Financial Reports (the CAFR) produced by just our local government operations. Each with their own investments and cash accounts.. ...

The composite totals of investment assets held internationally by the USA government is staggering. Between local and Federal government, the total of liquid investment assets held Internationally is a conservative sixty(60) Trillion dollars (2005). ...

Are the Banks at Fault? Not Really

by Walter Burien [article link](#)

09/27/08

There are now in this country over 136,000 separate government corporations in place. In doing so, government has expanded take-over ownership of it all by investment. They, composite government now own by the predominance of their investments the banks, stock market, and the insurance industry.

Let me qualify this: In 1963, all local and federal government investments (not public like SSI or Medicare but government's own stash) held with the Bank, Brokerage, and Insurance industries was about four-trillion dollars. Today? About one-hundred-ten trillion dollars internationally, and Oh yes, silence has truly been golden here for them. ...

From all US local and federal investment wealth in composite totals now amassed, or that \$110,000,000,000,000 (one-hundred-ten-trillion) if divided by 300,000,000 the basic population of the US = \$366,666.66 each, for every man, woman, and child in the USA. It would be great in reality to be a "real" shareholder here. US Government, all local and federal "gross annual income" from tax; investment; enterprise; and other in composite totals is now about 10 trillion dollars each year.

The Who and How they Own and Control it All!

by Walter Burien [article link](#)

December 15th 2009

I will note that the most important fact the people need to know is that in collective totals government (thousands of individual government entities) owns by stock ownership; bond participation; and equity participation most of the large public traded companies such as technology; pharmaceuticals; energy; banks; insurance; and war industry groups through collective ownership (in many a case 71% to 83% ownership).

There is no one individual government entity that will call the shots for these companies (even though some carry more clout than others) but there are private associations that network thousands of local and federal government accounts that have been assigned representative proxy vote rights for the thousands they represent and here is where the control rests.

By proxy vote representing the "collective" primary shareholders they can exert pressure for that company to do as told and if not they can remove the board of directors by representative proxy vote. On the other hand they can network millions if not billions of dollars of government investment capital for direction and investment with any company. ...

CAFR1 ARTICLES 2004 - 2009 [link](#)

Know **THE SCORE** by Walter Burien [article link](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [8:52 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

CAFR, Government, and You 2

The Common Denominator

by Walter Burien [article link](#)

12/21/09

The key for the masses to see this and fill the void intentionally created in their comprehension's is to start looking at collective totals. Keep in mind that as of 2009 there are over 184,000 separate local government entities big and small alone in the USA before Federal is accounted for, each with their own investments and separate totals. ...

In each state there are several large government retirement funds and many small fund sometimes several hundred in a large state. Looking at the big ones will give a representative example. When looking at say fifty or sixty of the large funds the collective totals add up to being evidently clear that the government OWNS these companies by investment.

With the thousands of separate government entities networked through a few private associations, they can rule towards policy; price; procedure; and market saturation.

This intertwined ownership and the ability to funnel taxpayer funds into these companies guarantees massive profits for the government's investments and creates the ups and downs in any one market as they enter and exit in uniform collective motion. Any other private investors outside of the loop are subject to guess work and luck if they obtain a profit. The only fundamentals at play here is the movement of the large government institutional funds creating the market as they move in and out in concert networked in perfected timing by the private associations that call the shots for them in consult. This gives a new definition to the golden rule: "He who controls the gold makes the rules" and in this case it is: "He who controls the investments makes all the rules"

As you start to look at the different international holdings held in these reports, you will see the top four profit makers in order of profits generated are: The Pharmaceutical / Health Care Companies; The Bank / Financial Companies; The Oil / Energy Companies; The War Industry Groups.

Government in its collective totals has acquired absolute ownership of these companies through stock; bond; and cash investment in these companies. The private sector ownership in the same is insignificant in comparison. So here we have government determining policy; events; and programs that in all reality guarantees themselves massive profits and in many case bringing forth policy and events that are very counter productive to the general public good and well being. War and Health care costs being perfect examples. ...

It is important to realize that as these funds grew over the decades they drove the economy by capitol investment. The power base that was created was unequaled especially when collective totals are amassed, we are talking just from the thousands of separate government retirement funds both federal and local somewhere between \$26 to \$28 trillion. ...

As an end result of the road we all have been on that is why the masses are being stripped piece by piece of freedoms; wealth; and operational unions and the individual is being told for all intents and purposes to shut up; do what you are told; and mind your own business. Arrogance flourishes when massive wealth is created by deception; theft; and extortion as it has within our own government as it has been also within other governments throughout the world and throughout the decades. Government is marketing to the masses that they are broke. Why do they do this? Quite simply; Who looks behind the poor mans house for a tower of gold and riches held.

A miraculous awakening needs to take place here to reverse the path we are heading down. It is a very unpleasant path that will lead to our own annihilation in due course. When there is massive wealth as there is in this country, there is the

potential for massive orchestrated theft. Well, it has, is, and will continue to happen if the fundamental structure of things remains the same without true corrective measures to reverse the path we are currently on. ...

Walter Burien [home page](#)

Any local government can be restructured to meet their annual budget needs "Without" taxes. TRF (Tax Retirement Funds) paying for every City, County, State's annual budgetary needs!

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [8:44 PM](#) [0 comments](#) [✉](#)

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

[God Is The Surpassing Power 1](#)

GOD IS THE SURPASSING POWER, not just a circumscribing power, of abusive relations, of authoritarianism; GOD IS EQUITY IN *ALL* THINGS !! - "rankism is an abuse" - rank is NOT necessary; those who would have rank must be the greater servant, they must give dignity and their respect as gift to those not considered ranked [unleavened bread]; RANK MUST BE TURNED INTO A SERVANT GIFT, AN ENGAGEMENT TO ELIMINATE ANY/ALL CONSIDERATION OF RANK(-ism) !! -- an assault on another's dignity [rank is an insult] is an assault on our God(-ing) [humiliating God]; our prevalent systemic is rankism dependent [capitalism; democratic-fascism], ie., the chronic indignity of the working-poor under constant monetary threat vs. voting their [selfish] economic interest in order to deconstruct a selfish systemic [ie., the working-poor voting populist, or socialist]; a dignitarian [dignity] movement is needed, an egalitarian societal ideal [this is what Christ(-ian systemic) advocated] !! - one social group subordinating another social group is evil, a woven cloak, a societal construct that needs to be unwoven by Mercy and Truth - CIVILIZING RANK IS NOT THE ANSWER, OUR COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF RANK IS: A NEW ATTITUDE, A NEW MIND !! - we must throw off the burden of the "somebody mystique" - WE MUST BE COGNIZANT OF THE IMPOSITION OF [selfish] WILL THROUGH RANK(-ism) !! - GOD IS *NOT* SUB-ORDINATION TO THE ORDINATED !! - rankism [ordination to privilege] is prejudice and abuse, the tyranny of structure, demanding humility [for reward]; WE ARE HUMBLE *ONLY* BEFORE OUR GOD !! - NOBODY IS A NOBODY, everyone *is* a somebody !!

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:40 PM](#) [0 comments](#) [✉](#)

[God Is The Surpassing Power 2](#)

Our family relationship is our co-genitor [environment]; the "family" form is our *only* form of relationship(s), in *all* things -- anger is the reaction to our emptiness and fear [causation]; we must eliminate the cause; there is no such thing as "healthy" anger - we must NOT react to another's anger and we must recognize our own - REAL LOVE, CONCERN IS THE CURE [anger is the result of a lacking, a lessening, of love (of God)]; our "expectations" of another's behaviour [esp., our marriages/family], our frustrations at their perceived lacking, results in our anger [hurt] - vested-interest [esp., media-induced] perceived injury emotive, a leading cause of collective anger [an evil, empty systemic using the emptiness to produce more; a vicious cycle in its service] -- OUR ANGER IS A "SELFISH" EMOTION; GOD IS *NOT* ANGER OR ANGRY WITH US [we don't feel His love; we are detracted by "our" anger (anger is always wrong)] - we must overcome our anger: 1 be quiet [shut-up] 2 be wrong [we are here to be happy (reciprocal love)] 3 feel love [remember] 4 get love [open to] 5 be loving [gift(-ing)] - ANGER IS DESTROYING US [venting anger does NOT get rid of it, only love(-ing) does (unconditional acceptance upon repentance, our being and doing cognition; realizing God is cognoscible (capable of being known): KNOWING, PERCEIVING GOD)] !! - we are adept at transferring our negative, destructive emotions on others [because we cannot deal with them ourselves], unwillingly on their part [selfish transference of selfish emotions]; we must become adept at transferring our love [gifted by God], gifting the essence of ourselves unselfishly and openly; others will accept love willingly.

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:35 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Secular Prophets: Indicant 3

Prophecy is not prediction, it is an "indicant" - two ways of life presented: the blessings or the curses - the "high" road or the "low" road.

The Futility Economy

By James Howard Kunstler [article link](#)
on January 4, 2010

Whatever you thought our economy was the past thirty years -- whatever model of it you have in your head -- that is definitely not what we are going back to. ...

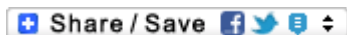
Reality is taking us out of that familiar, if sordid, realm, whether we like it or not. Our destination is an everyday economy where you rarely travel far from the place you live, where you have to make provision for you own health, your own old age, your own income, your own diet, your own security, and your own education. If you're really fortunate, some or all of these necessities can be obtained in conjunction with your neighbors in the place where you live -- but don't expect an increasingly mythical federal government to supply any of it. Expect a new and different way of organizing households based on extended families and kinship groups. Be prepared for agriculture to return to the foreground of everyday life, where farming is back at the center of the economy. Think about how you will cultivate your best role in a social network so the things you do will be truly valued by the other people who know you. Learn how to make your own music and write your own scripts. Try to study history. Resist cults. Keep your mind clear and your senses sharp. ...

The Master Wish around the country, including among people who ought to know better, is that we can "solve" our economic problem by finding some other way to run all the cars. Even hardcore environmentalists yammer incessantly about hybrid and "plug-in" cars as the "solution" to our blues. One of Barack Obama's first acts as president was to "save" the giant car companies. This is exactly the kind of signature behavior of a Futility Economy. ...

Given this current state of things, and the current course we're on, my guess is that when the falsity of these ideas and actions are exposed, they will become evident not gradually but very rapidly and shockingly. The people in charge of things will lose their vested legitimacy in a flash, and the institutions they command will become irrelevant overnight. The process would be traumatic for all of us as routines we counted on for a thousand particulars of everyday life vanish or collapse. A Great Indignation will rise across the land over the perceived swindles involved. A lot of effort will go into avenging the swindles instead of rebuilding an economy out of the ashes of futility.

Personally, I would like to see a different outcome. I'd like to see a new birth of intelligence, perhaps in the same way that President Lincoln invoked "a new birth of freedom" after an earlier convulsion in our history. The question is: do we have the resources of national character left to make that happen?

James Howard Kunstler [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:26 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

Grassroots Revolutionary Strategy

Grassroots Revolutionary Strategy

The Revolutionary Endeavor

by Brian Dominick [article link](#)

Maxim One: Personal change is vital to the revolutionary endeavor. We should accept that revolution is by its nature a set of personal acts, subjective transformations of the self being indispensable. We cannot hope to change relationships unless we also change all their components, ie, the individuals who constitute social institutions in the first place. The days of looking at revolution as a cold process or event carried out by "masses" of individuals who are personally no different than when completely subjugated by various oppressions, are fading into history. The new outlook demands that we also look inward, toward each other and ourselves.

Maxim Two: Institutional change is the basis of revolutionary change. We need to look at revolution as an inherently social act, with its basis in the changing of institutions. This is the counter-point to maxim one. While it is a new kind of person who brings about radical social upheavals of all sizes, it is those changes, as they effect institutions and society as a whole, that are the actual evidence of a revolution in progress.

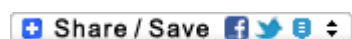
Maxim Three: Populations make revolutions, so control should be actively democratic. True revolution is a participatory and directly democratic undertaking -- guided not by vanguardist elites but by people as a whole. Too many times in the past people have fallen in line behind charismatic leaders with promises of a pre-paved future. The truth is, though, that any revolutionary advances will be made collectively by common people, not those to whom credit is normally afforded. The people who shall be expected to do the work of tearing down the old society and building the New should have full managerial control over the directions their movement takes.

Maxim Four: Revolution is a premeditated process. Rather than being something spontaneous, revolution is a historical "phenomenon" we plan for, patiently, cautiously, hopefully. It is not an event that comes about as a result of historical circumstances. Revolution is not a moment to be seized but a continuing set of struggles which happen because two forces are in conflict. That is, it doesn't land in our lap as a consequence of history, at the appropriate time. We make the time appropriate by planning and building revolution, of which the insurrectionary period is but one phase, not the pinnacle or definition of revolution.

Maxim Five: Revolution relies on holistic change throughout the many aspects of social life. Radical changes in any sphere of social relationships do not in themselves make up a revolution, which instead comes about only when economic, political, kinship and cultural life are all fundamentally altered. Major advances for women, queers and young people, while noteworthy advances, are not revolutionary if they are not accompanied by radical alterations of culture, economic changes and also a reorganization of the state. The dominant institutions and ideologies in other spheres will manage to accommodate the advances in kinship and continue oppression. What we need is an all-out, broad-based social change.

Maxim Six: The present, not merely the future, is revolutionary. The revolutionary endeavor is something we experience as we make it, even if the action we are taking and lives we're leading are not acknowledged as "revolutionary" at the time -- however premeditated the process, revolution is not something we wait for. This is why the concept of dual power, building while we resist, is so vital. We may or may not be living in a revolutionary time. Only history will decide that. We may not see an insurrection, the proving grounds of revolutionists, in our lifetime. Again, something we must accept before the fact. However, none of this means we cannot live revolutionary lives, as activists with vision and ideals. So we treat everyday as if it is in the midst of revolution, and we build, and we benefit from what we build, hoping so too will future generations.

Grassroots Revolutionary Strategy [web page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [6:30 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monday, January 4, 2010

[James Quinn: Road to Perdition](#)

ROAD TO PERDITION

by James Quinn [article link](#)

TheBurningPlatform.com

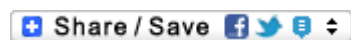
As disaster draws near, the two crooked political parties that are controlled by corporate and banking interests spout their usual mantras. The Democratic solution is to tax the “rich” and spread the wealth around by squandering our tax dollars on stimulus programs, jobs programs, welfare programs, foreign wars and bailing out their banker masters. The Republican answer is to reduce taxes on the “rich”, boost defense spending, issue tax rebate checks, and frittering away our tax dollars on foreign wars, while bailing out their banker masters. The differences between the two parties are inconsequential. Neither party have ever reduced government spending and neither party will ever take on the military industrial complex or the entitlement system. These dishonest politicians have devastated the American dream. Sound fiscal, monetary and tax policy were discarded in 1913 with the creation of the Federal Reserve and the institution of the income tax. Politicians were given a green light to spend taxpayer money and borrowed money in order to get re-elected. The Federal Reserve has provided the liquidity by inflating away 97% of the value of the USD. ...

We haven’t had true capitalism since 1913. We live in a corporate fascist state dominated by the military industrial complex, the financial banking complex, and now the healthcare industry complex. ...

The United States owes foreign countries \$3.5 trillion today. Our obligation to foreigners has risen by \$500 billion in the last 12 months. The Obama spending plans will require the issuance of \$2.2 trillion of new debt this year. We will need foreigners to buy close to \$1 trillion of our debt in 2010. The Chinese already own 25% of our outstanding debt, with Japan at 23% and OPEC at 6%. They know our budgets project \$13 trillion in deficits over the next 10 years. They know Ben (ameba spine) Bernanke is trying to inflate away this debt through inflation and a lower dollar. They know they are guaranteed to lose billions if they buy Treasuries paying 3%. They are not fools. They will eventually choke on this debt and vomit it back in our face. With mammoth debts, gargantuan unfunded liabilities, massive unemployment, a far flung military empire, multiple wars, and an overconfident, clueless, lethargic population, the surge in interest rates and hyperinflation will topple this bloated crumbling kingdom.

When the current economic scheme breaks down and the country dissolves in disarray because there is no courage, truthfulness or morality left in Washington DC, anything is possible. When governments are confronted with intractable domestic problems, they seek a foreign threat to distract the public. Our economic malfeasance and oil shortages will likely spark a World War III scenario with the Muslim world at odds with the Christian world. With nukes in the possession of many countries, terrifying outcomes are easy to imagine. The people of America will have a choice to make. They can put another brick in the wall, or they can try to break free. They can choose to take back their freedom and liberty or relinquish their last vestiges of humanity to a fascist dictatorship. Together we stand, divided we fall.

James Quinn [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [6:04 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Craig Harris: An Introspective Look at the Future of America

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2009

An Introspective Look at the Future of America

By Craig Harris [article link](#)

earthblog.news@gmail.com

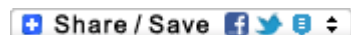
By any metric you choose, whether it's the median home costing half the median income even at artificially low interest rates, to the ballooning cost of insurance, healthcare, education or anything else people spend their money on, the US is experiencing a rapid decline in the standard of living for ordinary Americans and an emerging ultra rich ultra powerful shadow oligarch rule amid a generalized and widespread financial and social decay. The US population is becoming a nation of voiceless serfs with fewer and fewer remaining civil and property rights and a rapidly decaying standard of living, the antitheses of everything America is said to represent and strive for. ...

The "people's representatives" as they like to be called, no longer represent the people at all but instead solely represent and pledge allegiance to the special interests and corporate lobbyists who have bought and paid for their votes, along with the media oligarchs who control who sits in the seats. Regardless of whether they call themselves Democrats or Republicans, they are a group of self important, self serving, morally bankrupt, corrupt, clueless buffoons and criminals running unchecked by a complicit corporate media. ...

During 2009, the leadership has taken actions which benefit the corporations and special interests who own them, while showing nothing but wanton disregard for the millions of citizens whose lives their sponsors have destroyed. What we are headed towards in the US if we are not there already, is a Straussian society of ultra rich, ultra powerful oligarchs and a selfish powerless population with no middle class to speak of. The US president De Jour is, and from here on out will be a yes man, subservient to the ultra powerful too big to fail oligarchs who control the money and power and are responsible for putting him in the drivers seat. This is not compatible whatsoever with prosperity, democracy or anything else the US still holds itself out as. Here at the end of 2009, the United States has morphed into a bankrupt fascist oligarchy which owns the military machine as a policy enforcement tool, the entire political body and the media. It isn't going to fix itself because the fraud, corruption and malfeasance is systemic. It meets every definition of organized crime and it's all happening right out in the open. ...

The financial markets have deteriorated into a Las Vegas casino atmosphere where the the only consistent winners are the house and the too big to fail entities trading on foreknowledge and inside information shared freely between the treasury and the few remaining large trading houses. The entire system is bankrupt, fraudulent, corrupt and irretrievably broken. The anchor of the global financial system, the US dollar, has become the worlds largest ponzi scheme and the remaining 95% of the worlds population would like a new, viable standard. At this point however, despite any action the FED may or may not take, the US debt is far too large to ever be repaid. It is questionable if the interest payments will even be serviceable if interest rates were to rise, and the only reason interest rates are low is because the FED is using brute force. At this time the only way out without a complete collapse is to inflate away the debt, thus turning a deflationary collapse into a long period of inflationary decay and declining standard of living. ...

EARTHBLOG NEWS [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [5:24 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

What is the Cause of Our Pause?

The manipulators and managers of power, using the various -ism's [ie., socialism, terrorism, etc.], religion, democracy, globalization, etc., as justification [media: manufactured consent (Chomsky), compliance and complicity] for their [selfish] actions !! - the "commanding heights" of power [Prince(s) of Tyre (ref: [Mammon or Messiah Addendum 1](#))] are *NOT* the Mountain of God [Zion]; the *terrible* mechanism(s) of globalization in a global climate of turmoil is a liability, corporate oppression stirring the storm [convective emotions] - cooperative reaction amongst selfish entities [the Nation-States] to fight/combat terrorism, etc., [a *product* of their selfishness] will fail, resulting in a deep rift, a breach between the US(UK) and the EU; EVIL WILL *CONSUME* ITSELF [destructive prosperity, wealth, is a contradiction, an oxymoronic systemic of evil works] !!

Many plan to "live" before they die, to be a devil before they're an angel [source: unknown song] !! -- the volume of human cruelty is loud, reaching up to God [the cry of fear and despair]; systemic "privation" [private means/profits (demanding/causing privation)] enabling prejudiced gain is evil [personal gain at the expense (life; need; penury) of another] !! - the [systemic] CLAIM OF MONEY and those who control [prejudice] it, and the usury imposed, must be rejected and abhorred [evil works: being and doing; weaponization] !! -- the "dust of empire" [emotions stirred up; choking winds; stomping boots] will become the "ashes of civilization" [Ezek., 28:18; devour; ashes upon the earth]; the Revelation/Revealing, the consuming/purifying "truth" will reduce our world [kosmos(systemic)] to ashes !!

The love "threat", people hate the love [of God; the world hated/hates Christ, His Way of Life]; Christ was killed by the "people of God", by their utilization of the "Roman" systemic and we are doing the same !! - WE ARE PRIESTS OF MAMMON [by definition] !! - WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF OUR PAUSE ?? - where is thought if it never leaves the thinker ?? - we must bring every thought to Christ; we have to examine, reason with [God], and then "re-define" our existence [common purpose; in terms of "the other" rather than in terms of (our)self] !! - WE MUST WALK *TOGETHER* WITH GOD, AS GOD FAMILY !! -- in the war "within" man's soul, only God's love can heal the wounds: our physical existence is a reflection of our spiritual [illness; injury(-ies)]; GOD'S LOVE AND PEACE DWELLS FROM WITHIN !! - we are writing ourselves *into* "being" [the Book of Life] !!



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:28 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Move Your Money: A New Year's Resolution

The Silver Bear Cafe

Move Your Money: A New Year's Resolution

Arianna Huffington and Rob Johnson [article link](#)

The idea is simple: If enough people who have money in one of the big four banks move it into smaller, more local, more traditional community banks, then collectively we, the people, will have taken a big step toward re-rigging the financial system so it becomes again the productive, stable engine for growth it's meant to be. It's neither Left nor Right -- it's populism at its best. Consider it a withdrawal tax on the big banks for the negative service they provide by consistently ignoring the public interest. It's time for Americans to move their money out of these reckless behemoths. And you don't have to worry, there is zero risk: deposit insurance is just as good at small banks -- and unlike the big banks they don't provide the toxic dividend of derivatives trading in a heads-they-win, tails-we-lose fashion.

Think of the message it will send to Wall Street -- and to the White House. That we have had enough of the high-flying, no-limits-casino banking culture that continues to dominate Wall Street and Capitol Hill. That we won't wait on Washington to act, because we know that Washington has, in fact, been a part of the problem from the start. We simply can't count on Congress to fix things. We have to do it ourselves -- and the big banks are the core of the problem. We need to return to the stable, reliable, people-oriented approach of America's community banks.

So watch Eugene's amazing video, then go to www.moveyourmoney.info to learn more about how easy it is to move your money. And pass the idea on to your friends (help make this video -- and this idea -- go viral!).

JP Morgan/Chase, Citi, Wells Fargo, and Bank of America may be "too big to fail" -- but they are not too big to feel the impact of hundreds of thousands of people taking action to change a broken financial and political system. Let them gamble with their own money, not yours. Let's turn big banks into smaller banks. We'll all be better off -- and safer -- as a result.

The Silver Bear Cafe [home page](#)

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:18 AM](#) [0 comments](#) [✉](#)

Sunday, January 3, 2010

Without Money, Without Price 1

EVIL IS SEEMINGLY BOUNDLESS IN EXTENT AND REWARD !! - the harm done to people's lives by corporate CEO's [their corporate policies; the public icons (incl. Board of Directors)] is *beyond* measure and recognition, this includes our government - consulting the public good is a formality necessary to preserve the image of plurality, but sovereign power and interest is now corporate not public - democratic reason is lost and vested interest takes precedence !! -- real, expressed, violent civil-disobedience is the corporate-government overriding the public concern and will [not obeying the people, the rightful owners] and imposing and maintaining the SAGE-Systemic with armed force - our laws and media point us in other directions, ie., the poor, welfare, immigration, health care, etc., privilege and its evil are protected [as essential], its victims are blamed [further victimization of the victimized]; the psychosis(sys) of Mammon has spread its roots deep into humanity, negating humanity -- man is NOT getting better, WE ARE GROWING *MORE* SELFISH EVERYDAY: the world [natural and kosmos(systemic)] is degenerating [we are more and more degenerate] physically and spiritually !!

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:09 AM](#) [0 comments](#) [✉](#)

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Sunday, January 3, 2010

Without Money, Without Price 2

HOW DO WE PERCEIVE OURSELVES [individually and collectively; our groupings] ?? - what do we see, how do we look ?? - we are de-meaning ourselves by our "nature of interaction" [business, its money] !! -- we must think *beyond* the moment !! - WE ARE ALL "PASSING THE BUCK" [refusing our complicity, our responsibility, while utilizing the systemic, "the buck"] !! -- the corporate "suit" is a filthy rag [clothed in sin: FILTHY LUCRE/RAGS] - we either experience God or the Devil *by* the nature of our interactions with each other [we "define" God] !! -- LORD as "loaf-keeper", companion as "bread-fellow", CHRIST IS THE BREAD OF LIFE, the SPIRITUAL MANNA, the *wisdom* from above [*as* Christ; application of the the Word, the Gospel] !! - the 12 loaves of shewbread, the ** "bread of the presence" **, were unleavened [the 12 "Tribes" (name characteristics) of Israel], and *renewed* every Sabbath day; we must *become* de-leavened as the COG [WE ARE THE SHEWBREAD], in *all* aspects of our lives, physically and spiritually [sincerity and truth], as companions of Christ and of each other !! -

ALL MUST BE GIFTED AND PLACED ON THE *ONE* COMMON TABLE OF GOD(-ing) [the community], FOR ALL TO SHARE, WITHOUT MONEY [commodification], WITHOUT PRICE [systemic claim] [Isa 55:1] !!

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:05 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Saturday, January 2, 2010

[The Plough: Jesus and the Nonviolent Revolution](#)

André Trocmé (1901-1971) is famous for his role in saving thousands of Jews from the Nazis, as pastor of the French village of Le Chambon. But his bold deeds did not spring from a void. They were rooted in his understanding of Jesus' way of nonviolence and the social implications of Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom of God on earth.

In this book, you'll encounter a Jesus you may have never met before--a Jesus who not only calls for spiritual transformation, but for practical changes that answer the most perplexing political, economic, and social problems of our time.

Newly revised and expanded, this edition includes a concise biography of André Trocmé, and extensive notes on how contemporary thinkers have grappled with his ideas.

Jesus and the Nonviolent Revolution

208 pages [download book](#)

There is no easy peace. The earth's exploding population renders more difficult each day a peaceful solution to the problems of hunger, national security, and social justice. Simultaneously, the threat of nuclear destruction continues to hover over the future of humanity.

Meanwhile, the gap widens between the mentality of our contemporaries, shaped by a technological civilization whereby we control nature, and traditional religion, conceived during a rural epoch when human beings bowed under the weight of nature. Though technology threatens human existence more than it ever did in times past, Christian thought – frightened by the responsibilities it should assume – refuses to see in the gospel anything but a message of individual salvation. It might even be said that today's Christianity finds suspect any actions performed for the physical salvation of the human race. It spurns any practical efforts of authentic Christian obedience as presumptuous and pharisaical – and that in an age much in need of them. Such a reversal of the teachings of Jesus Christ must be rectified, lest the church disqualify itself as an instrument capable of pointing the way for a humanity bordering on collective suicide. ...

All of us, Christian and non-Christian alike, are responsible for the hunger, injustice, egoism, exploitation, and wars that devastate our time. Christians bear special responsibility: knowing that God can change both people and their situations, the disciple of Jesus can help bring into being God's future for humanity. ...

Moses had instituted a genuine social revolution aimed at preventing the accumulation of capital in the hands of a few. This was to recur every seven and every forty-nine years. I use the term "revolution" intentionally because the social readjustments commanded by Moses were far more radical than the efforts of modern revolutionaries. Contemporary revolutions grow primarily out of economic disparities caused by technological developments. Jesus' revolution, on the contrary, drew its strength from God's liberating justice. By proclaiming the Jubilee, Jesus wanted to bring about a total social transformation, with an eye to the future, yet based on the vision of justice God had already set forth in the past.

The Plough [home page](#)

Welcome to Plough Publishing House. Browse our collection of free Christian ebooks to download and articles to read.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:33 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Plough: The Early Christians

The Early Christians

In Their Own Words

Edited by Eberhard Arnold

304 pages [download book](#)

What did Christianity look like before it became an institution?

In these firsthand accounts of the early church, the spirit of Pentecost burns with prophetic force through the fog that envelops the modern church. A clear and vibrant faith lives on in these writings, providing a guide for Christians today. Its stark simplicity and revolutionary fervor will stun those lulled by conventional Christianity.

The Early Christians is a topically arranged collection of primary sources. It includes extra-biblical sayings of Jesus and excerpts from Origen, Tertullian, Polycarp, Clement of Alexandria, Justin, Irenaeus, and others. Equally revealing material from pagan contemporaries -- critics, detractors and persecutors -- is included as well.

"The spirit of Christ translates love of God into divine service of love to others. Whoever serves the poor, the destitute, the downtrodden, serves Christ himself, for God is near to them. To be loved by God means to love God and one's neighbor: community with God becomes community with one another. Expecting the kingdom shapes life and service in the church and unites the believers in one common will. True community and common dedication are the positive results of opposing the present age."

The Plough [home page](#)

Welcome to Plough Publishing House. Browse our collection of free Christian ebooks to download and articles to read.



Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:29 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Friday, January 1, 2010

Secular Prophets: Indicant 1

Forecast 2010 [article link](#)

By James Howard Kunstler

on December 28, 2009

Industrial economies are still at the mercy of peak oil. This basic fact of life means that we can't expect the regular cyclical growth in productive activity that formed the baseline parameters for modern capital finance - meaning that we can't run on revolving credit anymore because growth simply isn't there to create real surplus wealth to pay down debt. The past 20 years we've seen the institutions of capital finance pretend to create growth where there is no growth by expanding financial casino games of chance and extracting profits, commissions, and bonuses from the management of these games - mortgage backed securities, collateralized debt obligations, credit default swaps, and all the rest of the tricks dreamed up as America's industrial economy was shipped off to the Third World. But that set of rackets had a limited life span and they ran into a wall in October 2008. Since then it's all come down to a shell game: hide the giant pea of defaulted debt under a giant walnut shell.

Yet another part of the story is the wish that the failing fossil fuel industrial economy would segue seamlessly into an alt-energy industrial economy. This just isn't happening, despite the warm, fuzzy TV commercials about electric cars and "green" technology. The sad truth of the matter is that we face the need to fundamentally restructure the way we live and

what we do in North America, and probably along the lines of much more modest expectations, and with very different practical arrangements in everything from the very nature of work to household configurations, transportation, farming, capital formation, and the shape-and-scale of our settlements. This is not just a matter of re-tuning what we have now. It means letting go of much of it, especially our investments in suburbia and motoring - something that the American public still isn't ready to face. They may never be ready to face this and that is why we may never make a successful transition to whatever the next economy is. Rather, we will undertake a campaign to sustain the unsustainable and sink into poverty and disorder as we fight over the table scraps of the old economy ... and when the smoke clears nothing new will have been built. ...

The Long Emergency is officially underway. Reality is telling us very clearly to prepare for a new way of life in the USA. We're in desperate need of decomplexifying, re-localizing, downscaling, and re-humanizing American life. It doesn't mean that we will be a lesser people or that we will not recognize our own culture. In some respects, I think it means we must return to some traditional American life-ways that we abandoned for the cheap oil life of convenience, comfort, obesity, and social atomization.

The successful people in America moving forward will be those who attach themselves to cohesive local communities, places with integral local economies and sturdy social networks, especially places that can produce a significant amount of their own food. I don't think that we'll be living in a world without money, some medium of exchange above barter, but it may not come in the form of dollars. My guess is that for a while it may be gold and silver, or possibly certificates issued by bank-like institutions representing gold-on-hand. In any case, I doubt we'll arrive there this year. This is more likely to be the year of grand monetary disorders and continued shocking economic contraction.

James Howard Kunstler [home page](#)
Commentary on the flux of events



Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:52 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Secular Prophets: Indicant 2

International Forecaster Weekly
Forward With Caution After Exposing The Fed
by Bob Chapman [article link](#)
Posted: December 30 2009

It is not surprising that 320 members of the House passed legislation to audit the Fed to find out where trillions of dollars have gone and what the Fed and the Treasury have done to manipulate markets. Just how much monetization is really going on? Has the Fed been buying more than half the Treasuries issued via stealth activity and how long will this continue? Will the Treasury default and officially devalue? Of course they will, it is only a question of time. What will the Fed do with bonds issued by agencies and toxic waste CDOs, and what did they pay for all this garbage? Have they been paying the banks, Wall Street and insurance companies 80% instead of 20% on the dollar, so that taxpayers can pay the bill and these entities, which are insolvent, can be kept functioning? Why is it we could forecast all these events and very few others could? It is because if they did they would be ostracized and they would lose their jobs. That is how systems like this always work. You cannot lay a normal yardstick to what we have seen and what will be an unprecedented future. When the dollar officially devalues in a year to a year and a half, the shock will shake America and the world to its very foundations.

An audit and investigation of the Fed is on the way and the American public is not going to like what they find. All the failures and criminal activity of the past 96 years will become reality. This coming year will see the Fed forced to monetize massive amounts of government paper, all of which will lead to massive inflation. Inflation will move up very quickly. The groundwork began last May and over the past two months we saw official inflation rise to 1.2% and then 2.4% as real inflation moved up over 8% again. Will we see something similar to what happened in Argentina, Zimbabwe or in the Weimer Republic We do not know. What we do know is it is not going to be good. All the telltale signs are being ignored and for such duplicity a high price will be paid. That is why we predict official devaluation and default. History is explicit;

monetization cannot go on forever. Over the last two years the Fed has purchased trillions in what is essentially worthless paper from banks, Wall Street and insurance companies.

The International Forecaster [home page](#)

2010 Predictions: A List of Lists from Around the Web

Author: Mac Slavo [article link](#)

December 31st, 2009

Social Unrest and Global States of Combustibility

Author: Mac Slavo [article link](#)

January 1st, 2010

SHTF Plan [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:47 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Wednesday, December 30, 2009

Our Very Being Must Be Called Into Question

The Bible is the "Christ Document", the definitive "Word" [the Christ re-definition: signature of love = God's verification]; the COG Inc.'s semantics of confusion vs. God's Wisdom from Above [the straight and narrow (narrowing the field, the focus; still waters, not a raging sea foaming out its shame); God's love = our Being, God's wisdom = our Doing (application of the love)] -- God is relational, the God Family is relationship(s), and God's Holy Bible is "content relationships" *together* being a "single logical document", the representative Word of God [many parts and writers, working together] !! - God's "signature of love" is His servants "key of trust", His query method is also love and humility - the collective mind of humanity will become as "one" together with God, as His Family: AGAPE MIND, no longer imprisoned by our fears, and our selfish thoughts in response !!

Any evocation is a resultant, is dependent upon our approach !! - while the various NGO's and "resistance" groups express the [physical] immune system [reaction] of the Social Body, we, as radical Christians, must express the conscience [spiritual], God's very consciousness: OUR VERY BEING [and Doing] MUST BE CALLED INTO QUESTION, A DEEP, PENETRATING EXAMINATION, BY MERCY AND TRUTH !! - we must understand who we are and what we have become, and ask repentance of God: we must ask for His forgiveness, and we must forgive each other [we are *all* complicit]; WE MUST *REPAIR* THE BREACH AND *RESTORE* THE PATHS TO DWELL IN, *IN* LOVE !! - every man and every woman has a [sacred] voice that must be heard, his or her story; an independent media vs. the corporate voice, the voice of Mammon; God speaks to every one of us individually, we should follow His example [the signature of God and His truth is agape love] !!



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:11 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[The International Forcaster](#)

Two Years Of Failure In Directing The Economy

by Bob Chapman

Posted: December 19 2009 [article link](#)

... Americans opened their markets to products of Communist China's slave labor and China became the world's biggest exporter. Via free trade, globalization, offshoring and outsourcing, transnational conglomerates have stolen America's destiny and handed it to China. This is what corporatist fascism is all about. ...

... Very simply, the US government is bankrupt. They can either default or lay the burden on future generations. The immediate answer is for government to cut spending on such trivialities, such as Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security. Allow the citizens to live in penury and poverty. These are the people who helped build America into what it is and they are to be cast aside as the Fed rescues its owners, the bankers, who deliberately caused the problem in the first place. ...

... Today's speculation reflects the lack of trust, confidence and lack of fiscal and monetary discipline. The theme is we had better make it while we can, because there may be no tomorrow. As a result the probability of a steep market correction is strong. What we are involved in economically and financially is not a common correction, it is a correction in a bear market and few, even professionals, see this. This happened in the early 1930s and by the end of 1940 we still had not exited depression. We had to arrange a war to extricate ourselves. ...

... Few, except for Ron Paul and his fellow sound money adherents, are asking where the trillions of dollars of Fed and government money has been spent, or who got it, and what was the collateral on the loans and how was it priced? The recipients for the most part were the same culprits who caused all the problems in the first place. ...

... What has occurred in the US could not have happened by ineptness or chance. It has been done by design. There is no such thing as coincidence.

The International Forecaster [home page](#)

[+](#) Share / Save [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:04 PM](#) [0 comments](#) [✉](#)

Tuesday, December 29, 2009

[Institutionalized Mammon Is What We Have Become](#)

The corporate creed is greed, greed in the guise of National Interest, National Security [profit warriors]; "refugee" and "immigrant" are economic designations [money classifications; evil prejudice] - Isa 28:9 "Whom shall He teach knowledge? and whom shall He make to understand doctrine? [them that are] weaned from the milk, [and] drawn from the breasts ..."; we must remove ourselves from our carnal "mother" [COG (Church of God) Inc., harlots, false prophets] and the corporate [COG (Continuity of Government), Beast]; our minds have been pulled down into "media" confusion, the polluted discourse of Mammon - politics is the "business" of government [corporate pimps; private trust] not stewardship government [public trust] - our attempt to fight iniquity while maintaining the excess is a contradiction !! - as long as Mammon's life-blood [its money] keeps us alive, we are part of its body, its being !! - institutionalized Mammon is what we have become: it is "the" dominant force in our world [kosmos]; it is the worship [form; veneration (psychology)], weaponization, and power of evil; corporatized money as primary consideration/arbiter !!

[+](#) Share / Save [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:41 PM](#) [0 comments](#) [✉](#)

Mac Slavo: What is Money When the System Collapses?

What is Money When the System Collapses?

Author: Mac Slavo [article link](#)

December 29th, 2009

In disaster situations, the value of money as we know it now changes, especially if we are dealing with a hyperinflationary collapse of the system's core currency. This article discusses money as a commodity in an event where the traditional currency (US Dollar) is no longer valuable. ...

If your physical cash has not been converted into tangible assets, this would be the time to do so. Acquiring as much food, fuel, clothing and toiletry items as possible would be the ideal way to spend remaining cash before it completely collapses to zero, as it did in the Weimar inflation in 1930's Germany, or Zimbabwe's hyperinflation in recent years. ...

Rise of the Preppers

Author: Mac Slavo [article link](#)

December 29th, 2009

Preppers, by definition, are not just preparing for a TEOTWAWKI (The End Of The World As We Know It) scenario, but rather, are prepared for any far-from-equilibrium situation like a hurricane, earthquake, terror attack, chemical spill, evacuation, or other unforeseen event. Of course, prepping as a hobby may eventually lead to research and skills development to handle even the worst types of possibilities, including hyperinflationary collapse of our economic system, political instability and wide-spread civil unrest, all of which have the potential to lead to monetary collapse and food supply disruptions. ...

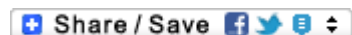
Don't get us wrong, emergency responders like police, fire and medical teams do their very best in the situations described above, but when you're dealing with millions of unprepared people whose only thought at the time is to survive and "get out," the situation can deteriorate quite rapidly. Preppers understand this, and have not just reserve food, water and fuel, but secondary and tertiary evacuation routes, multiple "bug-out" destinations where they can go if something happens, and are mentally, physically and psychologically prepared to handle the stress.

If everyone prepared in advance of the unknown, it would likely be much easier for the entire population to make it through an event unscathed. ...

SHTF Plan [home page](#)

SHTF Plan: Gerald Celente - Top Trends of 2010 [article link](#)

Trends Research Institute [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:23 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Mac Slavo: Hyperinflationary Depression

Hyperinflationary Depression

No Way of Avoiding Financial Armageddon

Author: Mac Slavo - December 15th, 2009 [article link](#)

John Williams: Shadow Stats quotes:

The U.S. economic and systemic solvency crises of the last two years are just precursors to a Great Collapse: a hyperinflationary great depression. Such will reflect a complete collapse in the purchasing power of the U.S. dollar, a collapse in the normal stream of U.S. commercial and economic activity, a collapse in the U.S. financial system as we know it, and a likely realignment of the U.S. political environment. The current U.S. financial markets, financial system and economy remain highly unstable and vulnerable to unexpected shocks. The Federal Reserve is dedicated to preventing

deflation, to debasing the U.S. dollar. The results of those efforts are being seen in tentative selling pressures against the U.S. currency and in the rallying price of gold.

The intensifying economic and solvency crises, and the responses to both by the U.S. government and the Federal Reserve in the last two years, have exacerbated the government's solvency issues and moved forward my timing estimation for the hyperinflation to the next five years, from the 2010 to 2018 timing range estimated in the prior report. The U.S. government and Federal Reserve already have committed the system to this course through the easy politics of a bottomless pocketbook, the servicing of big-moneyed special interests, gross mismanagement, and a deliberate and ongoing effort to debase the U.S. currency. Accordingly, risks are particularly high of the hyperinflation crisis breaking within the next year.

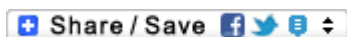
The U.S. has no way of avoiding a financial Armageddon. Bankrupt sovereign states most commonly use the currency printing press as a solution to not having enough money to cover obligations. The alternative would be for the U.S. to renege on its existing debt and obligations, a solution for modern sovereign states rarely seen outside of governments overthrown in revolution, and a solution with no happier ending than simply printing the needed money. With the creation of massive amounts of new fiat dollars (not backed by gold or silver) will come the eventual destruction of the value of the U.S. dollar and related dollar-denominated paper assets.

SHTF Plan [home page](#)

John Williams: Shadow Stats [home page](#)

SurvivalBlog [home page](#)

The Daily Web Log for Prepared Individuals Living in Uncertain Times



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:18 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Monday, December 28, 2009

[A Statement On Prosperity Teaching](#)

Christianity Today

A Statement On Prosperity Teaching [article link](#)

From the Lausanne Theology Working Group, Africa Chapter

at its consultations in Akropong, Ghana, 8-9 October, 2008 and 1-4 September 2009

... we reject as unbiblical the notion that God's miraculous power can be treated as automatic, or at the disposal of human techniques, or manipulated by human words, actions or rituals.

... we reject the unbiblical notion that spiritual welfare can be measured in terms of material welfare, or that wealth is always a sign of God's blessing (since it can be obtained by oppression, deceit or corruption), or that poverty or illness or early death, is always a sign of God's curse, or lack of faith, or human curses (since the Bible explicitly denies that it is always so).

... we reject as dangerously contradictory to the sovereign grace of God, the notion that success in life is entirely due to our own striving, wrestling, negotiation, or cleverness. We reject those elements of Prosperity Teaching that are virtually identical to 'positive thinking' and other kinds of 'self-help' techniques.

We are also grieved to observe that Prosperity Teaching has stressed individual wealth and success, without the need for community accountability, and has thus actually damaged a traditional feature of African society, which was commitment to care within the extended family and wider social community. ...

... we do not believe that Prosperity Teaching provides a helpful or biblical response to the poverty of the people among whom it flourishes. And we observe that much of this teaching has come from North American sources where people are not materially poor in the same way. ...

... we are distressed that much use of the Bible is seriously distorted, selective, and manipulative. We call for a more careful exegesis of texts, and a more holistic biblical hermeneutic, and we denounce the way that many texts are twisted out of context and used in ways that contradict some very plain Bible teaching.

And especially, we deplore the fact that in many churches where Prosperity Teaching is dominant, the Bible is rarely preached in any careful or explanatory way, and the way of salvation, including repentance from sin and saving faith in Christ for forgiveness of sin, and the hope of eternal life, is misrepresented and substituted with material wellbeing. ...

... numerical growth or mega-statistics may not necessarily demonstrate the truth of the message that accompanies it, or the belief system behind it. Popularity is no proof of truth; and people can be deceived in great numbers.

... we observe equally that many people have been duped by such teaching into false faith and false expectations, and when these are not satisfied, they 'give up on God', or lose their faith altogether and leave the church. This is tragic, and must be very grievous to God.

... there are aspects of the lifestyle and behaviour of many preachers of Prosperity Teaching that we find deplorable, unethical, and frankly idolatrous (to the god of Mammon), and in some of these respects we may be called upon to identify and reject such things as the marks of false prophets, according to the standards of the Bible. ...

Christianity Today [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:22 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Radar Magazine: The Last Roundup 1

The Last Roundup

For decades the federal government has been developing a highly classified plan that would override the Constitution in the event of a terrorist attack. Is it also compiling a secret enemies list of citizens who could face detention under martial law?

By Christopher Ketcham
05/05/08 "Radar Magazine"

Information Clearing House [article link](#)

Few Americans - professional journalists included - know anything about so-called Continuity of Government (COG) programs, so it's no surprise that the president's passing reference received almost no attention. COG resides in a nebulous legal realm, encompassing national emergency plans that would trigger the takeover of the country by extra-constitutional forces and effectively suspend the republic. In short, it's a road map for martial law.

... According to a senior government official who served with high-level security clearances in five administrations, "There exists a database of Americans, who, often for the slightest and most trivial reason, are considered unfriendly, and who, in a time of panic, might be incarcerated. The database can identify and locate perceived 'enemies of the state' almost instantaneously." He and other sources tell Radar that the database is sometimes referred to by the code name Main Core. One knowledgeable source claims that 8 million Americans are now listed in Main Core as potentially suspect. In the event of a national emergency, these people could be subject to everything from heightened surveillance and tracking to direct questioning and possibly even detention. ...

It is, of course, appropriate for any government to plan for the worst. But when COG plans are shrouded in extreme secrecy, effectively unregulated by Congress or the courts, and married to an overreaching surveillance state - as seems to be the case with Main Core - even sober observers must weigh whether the protections put in place by the federal government are becoming more dangerous to America than any outside threat. ...

"The more data you have on a particular target, the better [the software] can predict what the target will do, where the target will go, who it will turn to for help," he says. "Main Core is the table of contents for all the illegal information that the U.S. government has [compiled] on specific targets." An intelligence expert who has been briefed by high-level contacts in the Department of Homeland Security confirms that a database of this sort exists, but adds that "it is less a mega-database than a way to search numerous other agency databases at the same time."



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:16 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Radar Magazine: The Last Roundup 2

A host of publicly disclosed programs, sources say, now supply data to Main Core. Most notable are the NSA domestic surveillance programs, initiated in the wake of 9/11, typically referred to in press reports as "warrantless wiretapping." In March, a front-page article in the Wall Street Journal shed further light onto the extraordinarily invasive scope of the NSA efforts: According to the Journal, the government can now electronically monitor "huge volumes of records of domestic e-mails and Internet searches, as well as bank transfers, credit card transactions, travel, and telephone records." Authorities employ "sophisticated software programs" to sift through the data, searching for "suspicious patterns." In effect, the program is a mass catalog of the private lives of Americans. And it's notable that the article hints at the possibility of programs like Main Core. "The [NSA] effort also ties into data from an ad-hoc collection of so-called black programs whose existence is undisclosed," the Journal reported, quoting unnamed officials. "Many of the programs in various agencies began years before the 9/11 attacks but have since been given greater reach."

The following information seems to be fair game for collection without a warrant: the e-mail addresses you send to and receive from, and the subject lines of those messages; the phone numbers you dial, the numbers that dial in to your line, and the durations of the calls; the Internet sites you visit and the keywords in your Web searches; the destinations of the airline tickets you buy; the amounts and locations of your ATM withdrawals; and the goods and services you purchase on credit cards. All of this information is archived on government supercomputers and, according to sources, also fed into the Main Core database.

Main Core also allegedly draws on four smaller databases that, in turn, cull from federal, state, and local "intelligence" reports; print and broadcast media; financial records; "commercial databases"; and unidentified "private sector entities." Additional information comes from a database known as the Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment, which generates watch lists from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence for use by airlines, law enforcement, and border posts. According to the Washington Post, the Terrorist Identities list has quadrupled in size between 2003 and 2007 to include about 435,000 names. The FBI's Terrorist Screening Center border crossing list, which listed 755,000 persons as of fall 2007, grows by 200,000 names a year. A former NSA officer tells Radar that the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, using an electronic-funds transfer surveillance program, also contributes data to Main Core, as does a Pentagon program that was created in 2002 to monitor anti-war protestors and environmental activists such as Greenpeace.

If previous FEMA and FBI lists are any indication, the Main Core database includes dissidents and activists of various stripes, political and tax protestors, lawyers and professors, publishers and journalists, gun owners, illegal aliens, foreign nationals, and a great many other harmless, average people. ...

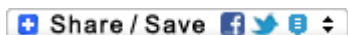
World News Daily: Information Clearing House [home page](#)

Infinite Unknown [home page](#)

Infinite Unknown: Main Core [article link](#)

The Last Roundup, by Christopher Ketcham, appeared in the May/June 2008 issue of Radar Magazine

Wikipedia: Radar Magazine [article link](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:11 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Sunday, December 27, 2009

[The Business Insider](#)

Oh, Crap, History Is Repeating Itself
by Martin Wolf [article link](#)

History is sort of repeating itself, says the FT's Martin Wolf. The 'Noughties' of the 20th Century marked the end of a global super-power and led to wars, depressions, and hell...

“History does not repeat itself, but it rhymes,” as Mark Twain is supposed to have said. The noughties of the 21st century now have the same fin de regime feeling as those of a century ago.

Then the US, Germany, Russia and Japan were on the rise; now it is China and India. Then it was the Boer war; now it is the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Then it was an arms race between Germany and the UK; now it is the military build-up in China. Then the protectionism of the US undermined liberal trade; now conflicts between the US and China undermine our ability to tackle climate change. Then the US was isolationist; now China and other rising powers demand untrammelled sovereignty...

Financial Times [article link](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:07 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Matt Savinar: Peak Oil](#)

Life After the Oil Crash [home page](#)

Civilization as we know it is coming to an end soon. This is not the wacky proclamation of a doomsday cult, apocalypse bible prophecy sect, or conspiracy theory society. Rather, it is the scientific conclusion of the best paid, most widely-respected geologists, physicists, bankers, and investors in the world. These are rational, professional, conservative individuals who are absolutely terrified by a phenomenon known as global "Peak Oil." ...

The coming oil shocks won't be so short lived. They represent the onset of "a new, permanent condition". Once the decline gets under way, production will drop (conservatively) by 3% per year, every year. War, terrorism, extreme weather and other "above ground" geopolitical factors will likely push the effective decline rate past 10% per year, thus cutting the total supply by 50% in 7 years. ...

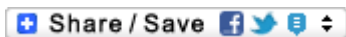
It's not just transportation and agriculture that are entirely dependent on abundant, cheap oil. Modern medicine, water distribution, and national defense are each entirely powered by oil and petroleum derived chemicals. ... In addition to transportation, food, water, and modern medicine, mass quantities of oil are required for all plastics, all computers and all high-tech devices. ...

When considering the role of oil in the production of modern technology, remember that most alternative systems of energy — including solar panels/solar-nanotechnology, windmills, hydrogen fuel cells, biodiesel production facilities, nuclear power plants, etc. all rely on sophisticated technology and energy-intensive forms of metallurgy. In fact, all electrical

devices make use of silver, copper, aluminum and platinum, each of which is discovered, extracted, and fashioned using oil or natural gas powered machinery. ...

The relationship between the supply of oil and natural gas and the workings of the global financial system is arguably the key issue to dealing with Peak Oil as robust and smoothly function global capital markets must exist in order to power an orderly (or semi-orderly) transition process. In fact this relationship is far more important than alternative sources of energy, energy conservation, or the development of new energy technologies, all of which are discussed in detail on page two of this site. In short, the global financial system is entirely dependent on a constantly increasing supply of oil and natural gas. ...

Life After the Oil Crash [page two](#) [page three](#)
Deal With Reality or Reality Will Deal With You

 + Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:52 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Saturday, December 26, 2009

Darkness Covers Another Flame of Hope

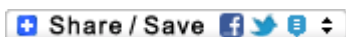
It is no accident that the power of Mammon has used the very day the Christian world celebrates the birth of the "Light of the World" to snuff out an example of that very Light - this is the back-handed demeaning slap Christ spoke about - the weak and desperate Chinese Oligarchy must be challenged and confronted as the bully it is - we must turn the other cheek so that they are forced now to close their fist if they want to continue, we must stand up to them - the demeaning of one human being is the diminishment of us all - let us hope that the flame being snuffed out catches on in the hearts of the great Chinese people and sets the wildfires of liberty and hope against this SAGE backed-and-supported repressive Regime and possibly place an Emperor on the Throne of China, an "Emperor of the People" to stand in common-cause with the peoples of the world - the so-called Communist Party must be undermined and collapsed, the Chinese people must say "NO" and withdraw all support, and we in the West can do our part - we must be selective in our purchases of goods Made in China; we must investigate the companies and demand that our Leaders demand an accounting of this our Trading Partner - Almighty God must take precedence over the almighty dollar -- "we the people" must rescind our fraudulent National Debts (owned by the private-State, the SAGE, the enslavement of our futures) and-in-turn rescind the Debt Holdings of this brutal Dictatorship and set their people and ourselves free !! - the courage and conviction of Liu Xiaobo and his wife Liu Xia are beyond most of us in comprehension and ability; WE MUST KEEP THEM IN MIND AND WE MUST REMIND THE WORLD ON A CONTINUOUS BASIS - HIS CONVICTION FOR HIS CONVICTION IS A CRIME AGAINST US ALL !!

Chinese dissident's jailing draws international anger
BBC Friday, 25 December 2009 [article link](#)

There has been widespread condemnation of the jailing by China of leading dissident, Liu Xiaobo, for subversion. ...

China's Communist Party leaders appear to be sending a message to anyone else who might want to challenge their total grip on power: don't. Chinese people have been given many freedoms since reforms were first begun 30 years ago, but this sentence shows that they have only very limited political rights.

BBC News [front page](#)

 + Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:29 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

Our Rightful Inheritance 1

God and His Church is not [imposed] containment; God is openness to others [freedom, communion, relationship], strength, *equitable roles*, a *full sharing* of what God has shared with us, a sharing of God's presence and His [blessings] gifts, including healing -- a fear of intrusion does not, and should not, intrude upon God's welcome [the fear should not exist, overriding the Spirit; the result is actualization of intrusion in the guise of protection (by those who assume power) for/against those called (the Elect), and God's guests (those being led); it leads to self-fulfillment; a barrier even against God; reined in, curbed] -- the WAY, the 10C, the signs of God are *life-signs* [indications of true life; liberty]; if God is withheld, the body will wither and die -- we are warned in the Bible to beware, to give heed, to keep watch against vain deceit, and even to mark and avoid the teachings of certain people who insist on creating division, but there is nowhere a command for total exclusion of any within God's community -- total exclusion applies to the world's systemic; God's warriors seek that from which others flee, there is NO fear of anything [God is with us]; we confront society -- the politics of exclusion within the Christian community is of man NOT God !! - it is CONTENTION against God's community; the truth of God must overwhelm the falsehoods !!

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:19 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Our Rightful Inheritance 2

"... by His stripes are ye healed," God has promised to heal us of our iniquities, our spiritual sins, as well as, our physical sins - illness of spirit and body were healed by Christ's sacrifice, the penalty has been borne and paid - Christ was beaten, whipped, His flesh torn away [fig. His pound of flesh] by the system - a right way of life will restore us, *heal* us, a way of righteousness, equity - we must claim our rightful inheritance with *all* its benefits !! -- suffering is pain coupled with despair, hopelessness - pain [physical; psychological] takes on an alter-ego, a separate personality that determines what we do, that impacts our lives; chronic pain is almost a third person, a possession, a being possessed - we must allow God to change the circumstances through faith and the application of knowledge [wisdom; the power of God] in the physical and spiritual - God will get to the cause(s), the root of the problem and will exorcise it !! - the incapacity caused by the pain, the suffering, gives way to a new capacity [the ability to contain, absorb, or receive and hold; ability; power; qualification] from God; the *quality of being*, the capability, the potentiality of God's Family opens to us, as God's *gift* !!

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:17 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Our Rightful Inheritance 3

It is God's *presence* that brings the healing, our relationship with Him; the absence of God, by our choice, allows the deterioration [our daily lives, the application of God's word, the social Gospel] !! -- the world, the pride of life, is worshipping Satan [he has the world and its glory to give]; living within the false, the world's ways, is NOT worshipping God in truth !! -- SIN involves man's *relationship* to his Maker -- worship is the acknowledging of God in *all* His ways IN *all* our ways, we become one with God [*one presence*], His will, His way of life, becomes ours [the application of intelligent design] -- God provides the *healing* that is necessary, by OUR presence !!

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:14 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Our Rightful Inheritance 4

The Church of God community: a *relationship* with God among men, an example, a *working* witness [a living witness] -- the corporate [by a recognition of their form, influence and effect] has to be rejected, including their products, their money and means - there is no such thing as ethical funds; shareholders [claiming the *divine right* of capital] are opposed to equity, they claim profit for perpetuity as right, they are slave-holders in effect, with a claim on the rights and labor of workers, with no real input whatever; it is ** wealth discrimination ** and opposed to the Kingdom of God -- the choice is either for the hard right or the easy wrong -- the price for freedom was Christ's sacrifice - we must be *stewards* NOT consumers [including the COG, hearers only; the Gospel as product is NOT doing the Gospel (doers of the word); a hierarchical form-structure is NOT a *ministry of the brethren*, good stewards of the Spirit of God] -- the want, the need of belief [most are just trying to heal the hurt; the emotion] must be paired with knowledge, intelligence, and active faith, joined as *wisdom*, the application of God's Word, the *power* of God !!

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:11 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

We Must Unlock the Authority from Within

Our interaction, our behavior with the external world is now at a crisis stage; our penetration into the very process of life [deep intrusion into processes that we at best, at present, can only guess at] requires an increased intelligence, a new level of sensibility, an exquisite sensitivity, and it begins with a new level of intelligence vs. social stratification, the mental template, the hierarchical lock that has been the primary cause of the appalling record of man, past and present, with its profound long-term consequences; we must change, adjust our behavior for the future or there will be no future for humanity; the root of all the evil is Mammon, the catalyst to rush headlong without weighing the consequences, or the impulse to tip-the-balances - we must unlock the authority from within, the inherent value, the cognition within each of us and release the false usurper spirit [the destroyer of wisdom, the Faith of the Fallen] and accept the communitarian Faith of God, a free gift, an enhancement to our human spirit: God's way of peace, justice, equality, of livelihood and means of life.

God will restore our souls as we apply the communitarian Gospel, as we live within the Family, the community of God !! -- Isaiah 25:7 God will *swallow up*, He will end the SAGE systemic, the impudent [without thought of the consequences; lacking in judgment or caution] countenance [the look on a persons face that shows one's nature or feelings; sanction], the fear, the heaviness of the covering, wrapped tightly, above, over, upon, and against every nation, every people [TARP an appropriate acronym]; and their league, the molten image, that is fused, overspread against all nations.

[The Troubled Asset Relief Program, commonly referred to as TARP, is a program of the United States government to purchase assets and equity from financial institutions to strengthen its financial sector. It is the largest component of the government's measures in 2008 to address the subprime mortgage crisis (source Wikipedia)].

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:56 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Indymedia: The Peoples Protocol on Climate Change

Indymedia: The Peoples Protocol on Climate Change [article link](#)

The Peoples Protocol on Climate Change is an initiative of the Peoples Movement on Climate Change (PMCC), a grassroots-based movement promoting the peoples agenda for climate action and social transformation, to fight for solutions that secure justice and democratic rights of the people, and challenge the collusion of profiteers led by powerful elites and corporate interests.

12th November 2009:

For a People's Protocol and a People's Movement on Climate Change

Injustice lies at the root of the climate crisis. A tiny minority of the world's population based in the advanced capitalist countries in the North is primarily responsible for accelerating climate change that is already inflicting more death, destruction and suffering to millions of the world's poor and disadvantaged.

In their relentless pursuit of profits, Northern corporations have burned vast and increasing amounts of fossil fuels and destroyed forests to feed energy and inputs into production, dumping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at levels that is now warming the planet and disrupting the climate. The global economic system involves the appropriation and lopsided use by a powerful global elite of the planet's shared resources, and the disempowerment and dispossession of the majority of the world's people. This basic social process is behind two centuries of profit-oriented capitalist growth. It bequeathed increasing prosperity and power to the Global North and private corporations through the over-exploitation of natural resources, and forced poverty, colonialism, and underdevelopment upon millions of people, who now suffer the hardest impacts of climate change despite having no responsibility for it. In the last 30 years, under the banner of free market globalization, and with the help of the IMF, World Bank, and WTO, Northern-based transnational corporations have expanded their power over Southern economies and resources, and intensified their pollution of the atmosphere and destruction of the environment. ...

We need a people's movement to advance our solutions. Solving the climate crisis requires far-reaching social transformation. Unequal patterns of power behind such injustices as poverty, hunger, exploitation, and colonialism are the same ones that have caused ecological destruction and climate change. And as with other injustices, the climate crisis and its roots can only be dealt with through political struggles by the people. We need a grassroots-based people's movement on climate change to promote the people's agenda on climate action and social transformation, fight for solutions that secure justice and democratic rights for the people, and challenge efforts from powerful elite and corporate interests that seek to divert and undermine our movement.

independent media center (indymedia) [home page](#)

BBC: Why did Copenhagen fail to deliver a climate deal? [article link](#)

Tuesday, 22 December 2009

About 45,000 travelled to the UN climate summit in Copenhagen - the vast majority convinced of the need for a new global agreement on climate change.

So why did the summit end without one - and without agreement that something significantly stronger should emerge next year?

Our environment correspondent Richard Black looks at eight reasons that might have played a part.

1. KEY GOVERNMENTS DO NOT WANT A GLOBAL DEAL
2. THE US POLITICAL SYSTEM
3. BAD TIMING
4. THE HOST GOVERNMENT

5. THE WEATHER
6. 24-HOUR NEWS CULTURE
7. EU POLITICS
8. CAMPAIGNERS GOT THEIR STRATEGIES WRONG

BBC News [front page](#)



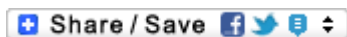
Posted by mammonmessiah at [8:55 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Monday, December 21, 2009

[Winter Solstice: The Conception of Christ](#)

Winter Solstice: Mary impregnated by the Holy Spirit most likely at this time, Christ was "conceived" at the time of the winter solstice when the night and darkness are longest; Christ is the "light" of the world; His birth was at the time of the fall Feasts of Trumpets/Tabernacles (His Ministry began at this time on His 30th Birthday AD27). Dec 21 is the day of the conception of the Family of God.

In and through community [the Kingdom of God] lies the salvation of the world. We must learn the basic principles of community in our own individual lives and personal spheres of influence. Spiritual healing is a process of becoming whole or holy, conversion is an ongoing process of becoming *increasingly conscious*. We have to awaken to the awareness of how *dead we have become* to fit into the "reality" of this world, this SAGE construct. We must be reminded that the hope of the Gospel cannot be fully eradicated by the repressive present. Breakthrough moments of love remind us that a society based on materialism and narcissistic self-interest is not our only possibility !! It is now time for resurrection [of a like figure; type], for waking the dead consciousness within us and slowly and reassuringly bringing it back to life, reconnecting to the fullness of our possibilities as beings created in the image of the divine. We must be reminded that we are really not alone at all, and that the real task is to recognize each other, see through our various masks, and have confidence that there is enough love, that we are enough, and that *together*, in relationship, we can go for our highest visions again. [based partially on Tikkun and Shared Vision magazines]



Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:33 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Saturday, December 19, 2009

[James Quinn: Brave New World 2009](#)

BRAVE NEW WORLD 2009 [article link](#)

by James Quinn

December 14, 2009

Aldous Huxley wrote the dystopian novel Brave New World in 1931 at the inauguration of the last Crisis period in America. Dystopia is the often futuristic vision of a society in which conditions of life are miserable and characterized by poverty, oppression, war, violence, disease, pollution, nuclear fallout and/or the abridgement of human rights, resulting in widespread unhappiness, suffering, and other kinds of pain. The novel was his response to the writings of H.G. Wells (Men Like Gods) and George Bernard Shaw which glorified socialism and a one World State. Orwell's 1984, written in 1948, is the other famous dystopian novel of the era. Huxley had visited America during the Roaring 20's and his experience provided the character for the novel. He was outraged by America's out of control materialistic egocentric society. He witnessed youthful superficiality, commercialization, sexual promiscuity, and a self centered culture. ...

At the very pinnacle of society sit Alpha Double-Pluses, who serve as the future scientists and top administrators of the world. People in different castes are conditioned to be happy in their own way – they do not feel resentment towards other castes, but rather feel a slight contempt for people not members of their own caste. The upper castes are intelligent, and have managerial jobs, where as the lower castes do the manual labor. The Alpha's have what we would consider the best jobs, and it continues down until the Epsilons, who have the least skilled jobs. The Alphas are tall and fair, while the Epsilons are dark skinned. ...

The novel takes place in the year 2540 in London. The disturbing aspect is that we are now in the year 2009 and much of Huxley's vision has come to fruition.

James Quinn [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:38 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[The Independent: The Truths Copenhagen Ignored](#)

Commentators [article link](#)

Johann Hari: The truths Copenhagen ignored - The politicians have chosen low taxes and oil money today over survival tomorrow

Saturday, 19 December 2009

So that's it. The world's worst polluters – the people who are drastically altering the climate – gathered here in Copenhagen to announce they were going to carry on cooking, in defiance of all the scientific warnings.

They didn't seal the deal; they sealed the coffin for the world's low-lying islands, its glaciers, its North Pole, and millions of lives. ...

The rich world has been responsible for 70 per cent of the warming gases in the atmosphere – yet 70 per cent of the effects are being felt in the developing world. Holland can build vast dykes to prevent its land flooding; Bangladesh can only drown. There is a cruel inverse relationship between cause and effect: the polluter doesn't pay.

So we have racked up a climate debt. We broke it; they paid. At this summit, for the first time, the poor countries rose in disgust. Their chief negotiator pointed out that the compensation offered "won't even pay for the coffins". The cliché that environmentalism is a rich person's ideology just gasped its final CO2-rich breath. As Naomi Klein put it: "At this summit, the pole of environmentalism has moved south." ...

We will have to pay higher taxes and fly less to make the leap to a renewably powered world – but we will still be able to live an abundant life where we are warm and free and well fed. The only real losers will be the fossil fuel corporations and the petro-dictatorships.

But our politicians have not chosen this sane path. No: they have chosen inertia and low taxes and oil money today over survival tomorrow. The true face of our current system – and of Copenhagen – can be seen in the life-saving ideas it has so casually tossed into the bin.

The Independent [home page](#)

The Independent: Climate Change

UN averts climate collapse by 'noting' new deal [article link](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:43 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Friday, December 18, 2009

Rudiments of the World 1

God and His truth are not the exclusive property of any group or person [reactionary and/or elitist spirituality]; the common Family and God's truth are open and free for all to accept and be accepted of; the group or person has the honor of worship and representation, but only God places you within His Family -- God's truth is not proprietary; there is no copyright on His truth - no man can put his name on God's truth, he is NOT the author of it - God's truth is to be shared freely as it was freely shared with us - the merit of the words themselves lend the authority; any copyright is of God !! -- the COG community, the Family, is wholly **self-sufficient (self-Existent)**, receiving **all** from God [there is no utilization of oppression, usury, artificial scarcity, slavery, etc., ie., the world's money and means]; we are not to **touch, taste, or handle** the rudiments [the primary and fundamental principles; to proceed in a row, go in order; to go on prosperously, to turn out well; to walk; to direct one's life, to live] of the world, we are not to use or be subject to its ordinances [doctrines; of public decrees; of (Roman) government; of rulers (carnal rulership); hierarchy] -- we are to be separate from the world, we must withdraw, cease to exist systemically -- an **emancipatory spirituality** [Tikkun] that encourages people to work together in community [the social and political movement] filled with a powerful spiritual practise includes a genuine recognition that its goals cannot be achieved by means that are not as holy as its ends.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:52 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Rudiments of the World 2

Colossians 2:20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the **rudiments** of the world, why, **as though living** in the world, are ye **subject** to **ordinances**, [some were employing, utilizing its means] 21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not; 22 Which all are to **perish** with the **using**;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh [carnally minded].

God will open our minds to the wonderful possibilities of His, **OUR** community, and to His abilities and intelligence(s), to accomplish the same -- we are NOT to **touch** [fasten ourselves to, by any means], **taste** [to partake of, in any way], or **handle** [to touch, handle; to do violence to, injury (the corporate means; money based on oppression, usury, etc.)] the SAGE systemic; and certainly NOT employ its means to propagate the Gospel [a message (and way of life) wholly opposed to, and one that demands our complete and total separation from, these same means; darkness is not the source of light]; a tainted message is the result, one lacking in power [the application of God's word], a message caught between two worlds -- true, open and free Christian community is the proper **preaching and witness** that God and His family require to deliver the Good News, the social [communitarian] Gospel, the **way of separation**, to the world [the people, the underlying foundations, the systemic psychology], to lay the foundation and build the Kingdom of God [restoration, the social reconstruction] for the inheritors.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:48 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Rudiments of the World 3

The way of gain [means; as instrumentality] - a **shameful** situation in the COG; the COG today is NOT a manifestation of God's truth !! - we are not honoring God our Father, and our Mother the Church; we are committing SIN; it should be a period of weeping and mourning as we stand before the Promised Land; God's household is wasted, a desert, sterile; NO RIGHTEOUS GROWTH; we must REBUILD **IN STRENGTH** -- contentions, divisions, making merchandise of the brethren, men committing fornication with their "mother" (their father's wife), the church, filling their own bellies [CLAIMING OWNERSHIP; AN **EMPTY** BUSINESS; COG SPOILED] -- our following of men [I am of...]; there is NO preeminence of any within the COG community, NO reputation; this carnal situation has to end !! - we follow Christ,

and Him only !! -- the puffed up corporate church must cease; the high mindedness - where is the *servant authority*, the elders, the mature example, to gently lead in all humility ?? - why haven't we truly gone to our brethren [in love, in prayer, trusting in God] to resolve any differences [instead of accusing, marking, calling our judgment "tough love"]; we have more in common than in difference; we have to get man out of the way of God [the evil, carnal, wall of division and strife is *money, position, and personality*] !!

1 Corinthians 5:1. It is reported commonly [that there is] *fornication* among you [AS INSTRUMENTALITY], and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have *[OWN; POSSESS]* his father's wife [MOTHER; COG]. 2 And ye are *puffed up*, and *have not rather mourned*, that he that hath done this *deed* [WORK] might be taken away from among you.

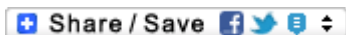
 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:43 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Rudiments of the World 4

Whose [and what] interests are being represented here ?? - it is time that we mark [to watch; recognize] and avoid [not shun, but withdraw from, reject the teachings of] the hierarchy, the hierarchical government form, the self-appointed "ministry of the hierarchy," a ministry filling their own bellies -- we must ask for forgiveness, we are all responsible; we must admonish, teach the truth as brethren [not in authority over]; the hierarchy are our brothers, BUT THEY ARE OPPOSING GOD IN MIND, and they are opposing, silencing God in form [they assume what rightfully belongs to the brethren], in the received and applied tradition of men !! - we must implement *God's pure design*, uncorrupted by man and return to being good stewards of the faith [a ministry of the brethren] in true community [the implementation of God's consciousness] !! - we must walk *as God* in *full* consciousness !! - the "work" of the COG is NOT in the running of a Corporate entity; it is establishing and creating community; a *living* faith, where we worship in spirit and in truth !!

Colossians 2:18 Let no man *beguile* you of your reward in a *voluntary* humility and *worshipping* of angels [FALLEN ANGELS; THEIR SYSTEMIC], intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:40 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

The Independent: Copenhagen Climate Summit

Commentators [article link](#)

Johann Hari: It's the protesters who offer the best hope for our planet

Wednesday, 16 December 2009

But in reality, there are two forms of vandalism about to happen in this city. There is the cutting of a few fences as part of an act of mass civil disobedience. It is an attempt to symbolically resist the much bigger act of vandalism – the trashing of our own habitat, by leaders too short-sighted and too money-addled to listen to the science.

Isn't it violent to knowingly condemn whole countries to drown? Isn't it vandalism to knowingly let the world's most crucial farming land crust over, its most precious rivers run dry, and its hurricanes become super-charged? Isn't that immeasurably worse than breaking a fence and cutting a cordon? Couldn't resistance to this destruction-machine justify this tiny act of destruction? The young protesters who will do this have proved themselves, so far, the sanest force in town. They have ensured that the corporate lobbyists punching holes in the deal are followed and shamed wherever they meet. They chant: "It's not your business – it's our climate."

When I hear the activists, I remember something Farley Mowat, the Canadian conservationist, wrote in the 1990s: "The last three decades of this century have witnessed the ignition of the most significant internal conflict ever to engage the human species. It is not the struggle between capitalism and communism or between any other set of 'isms'. It is the conflict between those who possess the means and will to exploit the living world to destruction, and those who are banding together in a desperate and last-ditch attempt to prevent the New Juggernaut from trashing our small planet."

This week, the small band of the sane got a little bit bigger and a lot more global. For today, it is vastly outgunned by the forces of ecological destruction, and it will certainly not be able to ensure a sane deal in Copenhagen. But think of all the other movements that were small at first and held up impossible dreams. They called him "Martin Loser King"; they said civil rights would never come; now everyone says he was right and there's a black President (although alas not a green one).

The Independent [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:18 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

God's Names: Our Responsibilities 1

John 1:12 But as many as received him, *to them gave he power* [G1849] to become the sons of God, [even] to them that *believe on his name*:

[Strong's Concordance #1849, exousia; - power - authority - right - liberty - jurisdiction - strength 1) power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases; leave or permission 2) physical and mental power; the ability or strength with which one is endued, which he either possesses or exercises 3) the power of authority (influence) and *of right* 4) the power of rule or government (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed) 4a) the power of judicial decisions; of authority to manage domestic affairs 4b) a thing subject to authority or rule, jurisdiction; one who possesses authority; a ruler, a magistrate, the leading and more powerful among created beings superior to man, spiritual potentates 4c) a sign of the husband's authority over his wife [Christ over the church, His bride], ie., the veil with which propriety required a women to cover herself 4d) the sign of regal authority, a crown].

Yah is Yahweh (As Become My Salvation)
Jesus (Salvation/Healing)
Holy "Being"

Yahweh-Yireh; Yahweh will see, or Yahweh will provide.
Yahweh-Rophekha; Yahweh who heals you.
Yahweh-Nissi; Yahweh my banner.
Yahweh-Meqaddishkem; Yahweh who makes you holy.
Yahweh-Shalom; Yahweh is peace.
Yahweh-Tsebhaoth; Yahweh of hosts.
Yahweh-Tsidqenu; Yahweh our righteousness.
Yahweh-Shammah; Yahweh is there.
Yahweh-Elyon; Yahweh most high.
Yahweh-Roi; Yahweh my shepherd.
Yah is Yahweh as having become my salvation.

Genesis 1:1 immediately links Elohim with creation [Genesis 1:26. And God said, Let *us* make man in *our* image, after our likeness]:

Jehovah (The (Self-)Existing One)
Christ (Anointing/Responsibility)
Sacred "Doing"

- * Jehovah; the Existing One.
- * El; the Almighty, the omnipotent Elohim in all his strength, the God who knows all.
- * Elohim (plural intensive, singular meaning), the God who sees all.
- * Elohim fulfills his purpose for his people, *THE GOD FAMILY*.
- * Eloah "the living God" (in contrast to inanimate idols), is a name stressing the Elohim is to be worshiped. Eloah is used in connection with God's will rather than his power.
- * Elyon "God Most High" is the possessor of heaven and earth.
- * El-Shaddai; the Almighty, is the all-bountiful giver of grace. He supplies all the needs of his people.
- * Adon, rendered "Lord," meaning Lord as Ruler of the earth.
- * Adonim, the plural of Adon, carries all the meaning of Adon, but to a higher degree. God is the owner and proprietor of the earth, the Lord who rules his own.
- * "Lord" meaning the Lord in relation to the earth; Adonay.

[+ Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:45 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

God's Names: Our Responsibilities 2

Thou shalt not covet - for power, riches, gain, etc. -- I will not give you power over me because I covet reward, position, influence, from you !! -- the reward for work must be communitarian in value, meaning -- we must NOT covet and be self-satisfied in the physical or spiritual; we must NOT covet power [real or imagined], or means, of any kind !! -- the inherent power [G1411] of

God comes from the *application of God's word*, the Gospel, in righteousness ... we must be *brothers and sisters in the faith*, having no reputation, nor seeking one; not over, but among, with, serving.

[Strong's Concordance #1411 dunamis; AV - power - mighty work - strength - miracle - might - virtue - mighty 1) strength power, ability 1a) inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth 1b) power for performing miracles 1c) moral power and excellence of soul -- 1d) the power and influence which belong to riches and wealth 1e) power and resources arising from numbers 1f) power consisting in or resting upon armies, forces, hosts.]

We [individually and collectively; physically and spiritually] must realize that God All In All, I Am That I Am - I Am What I Will Become, I Will Be What I Will Be [Rev. 3:14, Christ is the first begotten, the first-born of many, ** the beginning of the Creation of God **, not of Creation itself, but of the *Creation of God*, the Elohim, God now being *created* as FAMILY; actual created God-Kind] - is our responsibility also, we are part of the creating process [the relationship]: I Am What I Will Become, and God All In All, this is "us", this is God "calling to us", to be *begotten*, to learn and apply His Word, to grow in Grace and Knowledge [to know, believe, understand], to acquire God's perception(s) [of the reduction of our humanity, our being, by our existence apart from God], to make the Kingdom of God a reality now, *at this time*, NOT man's way but God's way !! - we will determine what God will become [by our attributes; by our strengths, weaknesses, etc., by our reward] !!

[+ Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:38 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

God's Names: Our Responsibilities 3

We must build God's self-sufficient community, and when it is realized, if not before, we must reject all claims to man's constructs, our allotted share [the use of; partake]; these are corporate schemes to placate the unequal, unjust distribution of the *commonwealth* and is therefore opposed to the KOG; these national sins [and our personal ones] *make void the Word of God* -- we are to be "separate", considered "strangers and pilgrims, sojourners" in the land [the nations of man] while we build and establish the nation of God - we are to be in union with God, NOT a partaker/partner of this evil construct - we must reject our role(s) in society, the consumption of power [Christ's example] - we must have authentic faith in God [freely given] and reject a forced, high cost, manufactured faith in the system - we are NOT to have a share in

[G3581 xenos], to be numbered among carnal men - our "relation" to man must be one of giver NOT (par)taker of other men's sins - righteousness is God's "nature of interaction" for His Family [G3056 logos; with whom as (future) judge we stand in relation]; we must dwell in righteousness, above reproach [shame, disgrace, discredit, or blame; or a source, cause, occasion of this; rebuke; reproof; censure] - the 10C are primary !!

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:31 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

God's Names: Our Responsibilities 4

The role is a consumption of power - it locates [or places] one in the representational hierarchy, and hence in the spectacle: at the top, at the bottom, in the middle, but never outside the hierarchy, whether this side of it or beyond it - the role is thus the means of access to the mechanism of [a chosen, or forced] culture: a form of initiation; it is also the medium of exchange of individual sacrifice, and in this sense performs a compensatory function [to the power]; and lastly, as a residue of separation, it strives to construct a behavioral unity; in this aspect it depends on identification - the series of poses chosen more or less unconsciously from the range of dominant stereotypes [the stereotype is the model of the role, the role is a model form of behavior; the repetition of an attitude creates a role, the repetition of a role creates a stereotype; the stereotype is an objective form into which people are integrated by means of the role; skill in playing and handling roles determines rank in the hierarchy] - why do we succumb to the seduction of borrowed attitudes?

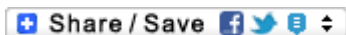
 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:29 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

God's Names: Our Responsibilities 5

The satisfaction derived from a well-played [or well mimicked] role is in direct proportion to the distance from ourselves [and from our God], to our self-negation and our self-sacrifice [the prime function of the (imposed; acquired) role is that of social adaptation, of integrating people into the well-policed universe of things; of control] - where [the SAGE] constraint breaks

people, and mediation [government; democracy] makes fools of them, the *seduction of power* [the impossibility of realization: power as sum of seductions; the evil continual, continuance; no summation (fulfillment of desire) possible; the push and pull] is what makes them love their oppression [covetousness; the grasp of evil, the embrace; *hierarchy*]; because of it people give up their real riches: for a cause that mutilates them, for an imaginary unity that fragments them, for an appearance that reifies them, for roles that wrest them from authentic life, for a time whose passage defines and confines them -- power's strength lies in its facility in enforcing both actual separation and false union - is what drives people to seek power the very weakness to which power reduces them? -- [God's Names: Our Responsibilities 4,5] [The Revolution of Everyday Life, author Raoul Vaneigem [with additions]]

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:26 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

IFG Primer: WTO Invisible Government

INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT: The World Trade Organization: Global Government For The New Millennium?

a primer

Prepared by

The International Forum on Globalization (IFG)

[Download the report](#)

Authors: Debi Barker and Jerry Mander

This primer is a basic briefing on the powers, structure, rules, powers, and values of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the agreements it encompasses. It includes a brief description of economic globalization the engine driving the creation of global agreements and institutions such as the WTO. Also included is a history of post-Bretton Woods free trade institutions, leading up to the WTO, as well as thorough explanations of WTO agreements and procedures. Analyses of the WTO regime and case studies are included concerning major recent decisions on: environment, agriculture, intellectual property rights, culture and investment. (50 pages)

IFG [home page](#)

IFG [download page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:15 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Monday, December 14, 2009

[Walter Rauschenbusch 1](#)

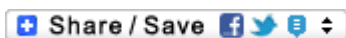
The essential purpose of Christianity is to transform human society into the Kingdom of God by regenerating *all* human relations and reconstituting them in accordance with the will of God. The religious spirit is a factor of incalculable power in the making of history. Unless the economic and intellectual factors are strongly reinforced by religious enthusiasm [the communitarian gospel], the whole social movement may prove abortive. The vastness and the free sweep of concentrated wealth on the one side, the independence, intelligence, moral vigor, and political power of the common people on the other side, promise a long-drawn grapple of contesting forces, but if God be for us who can be against us? It is the religious leaders of the people who give direction to the forces of religion, but most have been coopted by the system [prophets for profit; it is up to the common to be led by the Spirit of God, the common spirit granted to all who seek for the *perfecting* of humanity; Work out *your own* salvation with fear (respect, reverence for God) and trembling (Phil. 2:12)]. The conscience of Christendom is halting and groping, *perplexed by contradicting voices*, still poorly informed on essential questions, justly reluctant to part with the treasured maxims of the past, and yet conscious of the call of the future, the voice of our children.



Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:12 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Walter Rauschenbusch 2](#)

Ascertaining what was the *original and fundamental purpose* of the great Christian movement - the *life and teachings* of Jesus, and the *dominant tendencies* of primitive Christianity, is imperative due to the impossibility of handling of questions so vital to the economic, the social, and the moral standing of great and antagonistic classes of men, without jarring precious interests and convictions, and without giving men the choice between the bitterness of social repentance and the bitterness of moral resentment. Men must overcome the temptations which made the wrong almost inevitable, and the points of view in which they entrench themselves to save their self-respect. Those who come after us will live in a world which our sins have blighted or which our love of right has redeemed. We must do our thinking on these great questions, not with our eyes fixed on our accounts [the entrenched fear, the blinders], but with a wise outlook on the fields of the future and with the consciousness that the spirit of the Eternal is seeking to distill from our lives some essence of righteousness before they pass away. [Christianity and the Social Crisis by Walter Rauschenbusch 1907, 1913 edition, [with additions]]



Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:09 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Orestes A. Brownson 1](#)

The remedy is to be sought first in the destruction of the priest [the systemic priesthood: religious, governmental and business]; we are not mere destructives; we delight not in pulling down; but the bad must be removed before the good can be introduced; conviction and repentance precede regeneration; moreover we are Christians, and it is only by following out the Christian law, and the example of the early Christians, that we can hope to effect anything; Christianity is the sublimest protest against the priesthood ever uttered ... in the person of [Christ] Jesus both God and Man protested against the priesthood -- we may offend in what we say, but we cannot help that; we insist upon it, that the complete and final destruction of the priestly order, in every practical sense of the word priest, is the first step to be taken towards elevating the laboring classes ... He who redeemed man did not spring from the priestly class ... the chief priests were at the head of those who demanded his crucifixion ...

Let us have no class of men whose profession it is to minister at the altar [the altar of power and commerce]; let us leave this matter to Providence; when God raises up a prophet, let that prophet prophesy as God gives him utterance ... let us have none to prophesy for hire [prophets for profit] ... none of your hireling priests, your "dumb dogs" that will not bark ... what are the priests of Christendom as they now are?; miserable panderers to the prejudices of the age, loud in condemning sins nobody is guilty of, but silent as the grave when it concerns the crying sin of the times ... the next step in this work of elevating the working classes will be to resuscitate the Christianity of Christ; the Christianity of the Church has done its work; we have had enough of that Christianity ...

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:02 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Orestes A. Brownson 2](#)

According to the Christianity of Christ no man can enter the kingdom of God who does not labor with all zeal and diligence to establish the kingdom of God on the earth; who does not labor to bring down the high and bring up the low; to break the fetters of the bound and set the captive free; to destroy all oppression, establish the reign of justice, which is the reign of equality, between man and man; to introduce new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness, wherein all shall be as brothers, loving one another, and no one possessing what another lacketh - no man can be a Christian who does not labor to reform society ... no man can be a Christian who does not refrain from all practices by which the rich grow richer and the poor poorer [EXPATRIATION], and who does not do all in his power to elevate the laboring classes, so that one man shall not be doomed to toil while another enjoys the fruits; so that each man shall be free and independent ...

We grant the power of Christianity in working out the reform we demand; we agree that one of the most efficient means of elevating the working men is to christianize the community, but you must christianize it; it is the gospel of Jesus you must preach, and not the gospel of the priests ... let it be the genuine Gospel [the communitarian way] ... and not the pseudo-gospel, [the gospel of men; worshipping in vain; commandments of men] which lulls the conscience asleep, and permits men to feel that they may be servants of God while they are slaves to the world, the flesh and the devil ... we must preach no Gospel that permits men to feel that they are honorable men and good Christians, although rich and with eyes standing out with fatness, while the great mass of their brethren are suffering from iniquitous laws, from mischievous social arrangements, and pining away for the want of the refinements and even the necessities of life -- we speak strongly and pointedly on this subject, because we are desirous of arresting attention

... the redemption of the world is understood to mean simply the restoration of mankind to the favor of God in the world to come; their redemption from the evils of inequality, of factitious distinctions, and iniquitous social institutions [in the present world] counts for nothing in the eyes of the Church and this is its condemnation [the Mammon systemic, the origins of the evil; band-aid solutions provide temporary relief but no cure; you cannot use evil (the systemic) to propagate the good, in doing so you negate the good]. -- [Orestes A. Brownson (1803-76), The Laboring Classes, 1840 [with additions]].

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:58 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Sunday, December 13, 2009

Christian Thoughts: A Powerful Delusion

Saturday, December 12, 2009

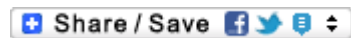
A Powerful Delusion [blog link](#)

With millions upon millions in the service to Mammon, who is left to raise the alarm? Who is left to seek to counteract the effects of service to Mammon? And who is willing to hate and despise Mammon as a consequence of seeking to serve God. And what we formerly took for granted, now is revealed to be the service to Mammon all around us. Indeed, there is no way to reconcile the glaring contradictions of those serving Mammon unopposed and unhindered, and unencumbered.

And with service to Mammon, the world becomes innundated with false prophets who instinctively peddle the false hope that God will do nothing. As a matter of fact, the service to Mammon works on the premise that God will not interfere in the affairs of man and put an end to the abomination of hating and despising him for the sake of the luxury and wealth offered by the service to Mammon.

Christian Thoughts [blog home](#)

As the heart and spirit moves, so does the pen. JESUS IS LORD.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:28 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

International Forum On Globalization

Look at the facts, weigh the judgements vs. free trade, globalization; the TNC corporate model = dependence, ie., Third World Nations, the starving exporting food to meet the demands of the TNCs - most of the biggest TNCs, these private monoliths (and private profits) were researched and developed by US public monies, tax dollars, over the past 50 years - companies merged, employees purged, profits and CEO salaries surged; the TNC contribution to employment argument vs. disestablishment is moot -- the destruction, the non-sustainable growth; third-world forced trade, imports/exports, TNC agenda against self-sufficiency vs. the TNC argument that no growth = standard of living cut in half in an increasing world population; a prescription without corporate growth = decline of rights, human and environmental leading to war, etc., the corporate responsibility vs. future anarchy, protecting mankind [the corporation as *saviour*] - who will prevail? - the answer is *the strong*, they will set the rules [the golden rule: those who have the power and the gold set the rules, must be negated] vs. the double-speak, the construction of words, ie., the WTO declaration; the corporate *monetized minds* emphasizing democracy yet ridiculing the democratic rights and decisions of citizens [ie., the MAI, the subordination of democracy by its self-appointed protectors]. -- [based on International Forum On Globalization, www.ifg.org; Seattle-WTO, Nov.99; debate broadcast on NPR-Alternative Radio, Jan.15.00 [with additions]]

IFG and Allies Look Back to Seattle and Forward to Copenhagen

On Monday, November 23rd, 2009, IFG organized a public evening at the First Unitarian Universalist Center in San Francisco. The forum's speakers reflected back on the 10th anniversary of the historic WTO shutdown in Seattle,

Washington, in November 1999, and looked forward to **the growing peoples' movement on climate justice** about to converge in December of this year in Copenhagen, Denmark. The event featured activists involved in organizing around the connections between them both through local actions taking place across the US on November 30th and December 7th.

International Forum on Globalization [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:48 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Antiwar.com article](#)

Our Chief Industry: War

The economy may be collapsing, but the war business is booming
by Justin Raimondo, November 18, 2009 [article link](#)

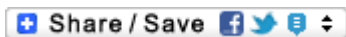
While our factories have long since moved abroad, where wages are lower and regulation is lax, and our crippled industries are in Dr. Obama's economic intensive care unit, on life support and awaiting last rites, America's number-one export – representing, by far, our single largest capital investment – is our overseas military presence. What Chalmers Johnson referred to as our "empire of bases" is the framework of an international economic system in which the division of labor is roughly as follows: while Asia is the factory of the world, South America the farmland, and Europe increasingly a theme park/museum, the U.S. role is that of world gendarme. ...

Before the big crash of 2008, you'll recall, in the glory days of the bubble years, our elites were all atwitter with a vague, glowing vision of the new economic reality, which touted the alleged benefits of "globalization." More than just the traditional free-market prescription of free trade, this concept envisioned extending the reach and influence of Western finance capital over the entire globe. At the end of this road – at "the end of history," as Francis Fukuyama famously put it – we would fall into the all-encompassing embrace of the emerging world state and live happily ever after.

This ever-upward-and-onward Panglossian view, which identified growing Western domination of the global economy with the march of progress itself, was the underlying rationale of an increasingly aggressive policy of U.S. military and political intervention worldwide. We said we were fighting for civilization as we bombed some of the oldest cities in Balkans, and when "humanitarian" interventionism gave way to a more Roman concept of America's role in the world – the dividing line being, roughly, 9/11/01 – still we invoked the defense of universal values as the ultimate justification for occupation and mass murder. We unhesitatingly identified ourselves and our interests with the advent of modernity and took up the old Kiplingesque burden of empire with alacrity.

This kind of hubris, however, has since gone out of fashion. The trauma of Iraq and an economic downturn have tamped down our crusading fever; a new appeal is needed in order to buttress the global economic and political order our ruling elites once thought they had in their grasp. At a time when the whole rationale for our endless "war on terrorism" is being challenged, a more pragmatic course is called for.

ANTIWAR.COM [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:16 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Monthly Review MRZine article](#)

Crisis of the Capitalist System: Where Do We Go from Here?

by Immanuel Wallerstein [article link](#)

The Harold Wolpe Lecture, University of KwaZulu-Natal, 5 November 2009

The depression into which the world has fallen will continue now for quite a while and go quite deep. It will destroy the last small pillar of relative economic stability, the role of the U.S. dollar as a reserve currency of safeguarding wealth. As this happens, the main concern of every government in the world -- from the United States to China, from France to Russia to Brazil to South Africa, not to speak of all the weaker governments on the world scene -- will be to avert the uprising of the unemployed workers and the middle strata whose savings and pensions disappear. The governments are turning to protectionism and printing money as their first line of defense, as ways of dealing with popular anger.

Such measures may postpone the dangers the governments fear and may assuage momentarily the pain of ordinary people. But they will eventually probably make the situation even worse. We are entering a gridlock of the system, from which the world will find it extremely difficult to extract itself. The gridlock will express itself in the form of a constant set of ever wilder fluctuations, which will make short-term predictions -- both economic and political -- virtually guesswork. And this in turn will aggravate the popular fears and alienation. ...

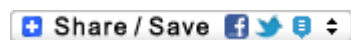
From here on in, we are living amidst the bifurcation of the systemic process. The question is no longer, how will the capitalist system mend itself, and renew its forward thrust? The question is what will replace this system? What order will be chosen out of this chaos?

Of course, not everyone is aware of this as yet. Most people continue to operate as though somehow the system were continuing, using its old rules. They are not really wrong. The system does continue to operate, using its old rules. But now, using the old rules only exacerbates the structural crisis. However, some actors are quite aware that we are in a bifurcation. And they know, perhaps only tacitly, that at some point in a bifurcation, the collectivity of all actors leans definitively in one direction or another. One can say that a decision has been made, even if the use of the word "decision" sounds anthropomorphic.

We may think of this period of systemic crisis as the arena of a struggle for the successor system. The outcome may be inherently unpredictable but the nature of the struggle is very clear. We are before alternative choices. They cannot be spelled out in institutional detail, but they can be suggested in broad outline.

We can "choose" collectively a new stable system that essentially resembles the present system in some basic characteristics -- a system that is hierarchical, exploitative, and polarizing. There are, no doubt, many forms this could take, and some of these forms could be harsher than the capitalist world-system in which we have been living. Alternatively we can "choose" collectively a radically different form of system, one that has never previously existed -- a system that is relatively democratic and relatively egalitarian.

MRZine [home page](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:07 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Saturday, December 12, 2009

Community Congregations 1

The hierarchical government form violates the 10C:

1. it is in the service of another god; BAAL [ownership; over and upon];
2. it is the Roman image, the image of the Beast;
3. it is taking God's name in vain; worshipping [as way of life] in vain;
[God's name(s) (His/our spiritual characteristics/responsibilities) denied; God's truth partially taught, but in *little strength*; His government has been denied; the strength has been consumed, in vain, from within];
4. it is employed, working for itself on the new moons, Sabbaths, holy days;
5. it is dishonoring God, our Father, and our Mother, the Church;
6. it is committing murder [the way of gain = the way of Cain];
7. it is committing adultery; fornication (with the world) as instrumentality;
8. it is stealing the authority of God away from the brethren; it is stealing God's tithes (community contribution) for its own work, the Gospel as product [maintaining the corporate church; way of gain as righteousness];
9. it is bearing false witness [hierarchy is NOT the government of God]; it is denying God's self-sufficient community [full preaching, witness]; it is denying the very "anointing" of the brethren, their ministry; it is (/they are) the "anti-Anointed";
10. it is covetous for position and power, honor and privilege; it is covetous for what its neighbor [the world] possesses.

The hierarchical government form is opposed to God, an enemy of God, *carnal*, yet, those within its grasp are our brethren -- you cannot exercise holy, righteous, spiritual character by utilizing the means of the world, the unholy, the unrighteous, the base; good cannot proceed out of evil [there is no good in evil, but, the *recognition* of the evil can bring the good] - God's presence will not occupy the same space, environment, with sin [evil is the absence of God; evil flows from sin, the negation of God's way; selfishness]; righteousness does not come from, originate, from unrighteousness, or its means, its instrumentality !!

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:46 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Community Congregations 2

We need to look at the governmental structure of the first-century church, built as it was on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, in which every person was a brother or sister and coheir with Christ; where no centralized hierarchy of power and control reigned supreme; where God's Spirit moved mightily among people who put their trust in Him alone -- we are the Body, *not* the corporation, of Christ; Jesus is our Master, King, High Priest and Lord - He and His apostles set the standard for governance -- it is when we understand our weakness that God will be our strength - if our hearts are right and our garments figuratively wet from washing each other's feet, then God can use us in His ** Ministry of Reconciliation ** to prepare a people for Christ's second coming - but, if we insist on patterning our self-rule after the kings of the gentiles, which invariably results in people *acting* like kings of the gentiles, then God might call others who will serve Him and Him alone. -- [partial excerpt: Seeking the Government of God Here on Earth, by Lee Lisman; from the June 24, 1996 issue, In Transition]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:42 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Community Congregations 3

The subject matter of 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4 is *spiritual gifts*, positions of service and responsibility, NOT positions of rank, privilege, and authority over, or upon, the brethren, but in the service for, and of, the brethren - eldership and service from within the congregation !! - there is no professional ministry, no central authority; the government of God

is a relationship amongst the ministry of the brethren with Christ as High Priest directing **the** work: the autonomous, self-sufficient, loosely confederated, and flexible [not rigid, but open to new truth, new experience] community-congregations, each **a** work of God, growing in the grace and knowledge of God, each walking with Christ, working out their own salvation with fear and trembling [reverence and awe] !! - a plurality of elders, mature in the spirit, providing guidance in each, with a sharing of the gifts by the brethren amongst the congregations, a **reciprocal relationship** of freely sharing all that God has freely shared with them, for the edification and growth of the Body of Christ - in **brethren assemblies** there is NO imposed distinction between clergy and laity !!

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:39 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Community Congregations 4

God's self-sufficient and free community ensures preservation of, and absolute, prohibition of evil [fornication as instrumentality; female rivals (church typed: hierarchy; divisions), etc.] within, the COG - the COG is in league [earth community covenant], in alliance with, the natural order of God's creation, in a **reciprocal relationship** [physical as-well-as spiritual; RESTORED TO LIFE] -- the COG is **our** dwelling, home, habitation, **the sacred tent** of God [the tabernacle]; it is a place of health, prosperity, and peace - the COG community is visited [to oversee, muster, charge, care for; do judgment] *** without sin *** [complicity, incur guilt; judge] [without losing oneself, without wandering from the way] - the absolute disestablishment of the hierarchical systemic accomplished; *** pre-millennial fulfillment *** possibility (it is up to us to avert the coming Holocaust); the COG persuaded, opened, made simple again; a very deep, and profound **work** NOW begins; the Holy Spirit deeply stirred, the COG collected, and bound together.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:37 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Friday, December 11, 2009

Feast of Dedication 1 Hanukkah/Chanukah

The Feast of Dedication [Chanukah; the Festival of Lights] to GOD and to His Temple must be honored by the COG, just as Christ did [John 10:22-28]: [G] our dedication to God our Father, [O] our dedication to Others, through the body of Christ, [D] our dedication to the destruction of the works of the Devil [his systemic], by growing in grace and knowledge through God's Holy Spirit !! -- the continued use of the world's systemic by the COG is a validation of that which is and the inability to commit to that which ought to be, and we affirm a different vision of strength - God's strength [the application of His word] is dependent on our ability to create a world of love and caring, a world of peace and justice, a world in which every human being is treated as an embodiment of the Spirit of God [the community of God]; *** the works that we do in our Father's name, bear *witness* of us ***.

Chislev 25 Festival of Lights or Dedication - beginning of the Jews' eight-day celebration in memory of the dedication of the altar in 164 B.C. after it had been defiled by Antiochus IV on the same date in 167 B.C. (Dan. 11:31; see also John 10:22).

G1456 egkainia; AV - feast of dedication 1) dedication, consecration; in particular the annual feast celebrated eight days beginning in the 25th of Chislev, instituted by Judas Maccabaeus [B.C. 164] in memory of the cleansing of the temple from the pollution of Antiochus Epiphanes.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:57 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Feast of Dedication 2

Chislev XXV The Feast of Dedication, viz. of the temple, profaned by the order of Antiochus Epiphanes, and repaired and purified by the care of Judas Maccabeus ["the hammer" or Maccabee]. This festival Christ honored with his presence at Jerusalem. It is likewise called the Feast of Lights because, during the time of its celebration, the people used to illuminate their houses, by setting up candles at every one's door; I Mac. iv. 52., II Mac. ii. 16., John x. 22.

John 10:22. And it was at Jerusalem the ** feast of the dedication **, and it was winter. 23 And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch. 24 Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. 25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: *the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me*. 26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any [man] pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave [them] me, is greater than all; and no [man] is able to pluck [them] out of my Father's hand. 30 I and [my] Father are one.

31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. 32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? 33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. 34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, ** Ye are gods? ** 35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; 36 Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? 37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. 38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, ** believe the works **: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father [is] in me, and I in him.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:54 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Feast of Dedication 3

The spiritual message of who, and what we are, our responsibilities [John 10:34; the Family of God, our self-awareness], and of the "spiritual warfare" that we are engaged in [one definition (occurrence) of evil is our lack of awareness, the absence of *ourselves* (we are a part of God, and our absence is an absence of God's presence) both within and without the COG] - the COG is rededicated by keeping the Feast of Dedication on Chislev 25 for eight days [one day's oil burned for eight days symbolizing the miracle of the Holy Spirit; circumcision (physical) on the eighth day (spiritually of the heart); Mary impregnated by the Holy Spirit most likely at this time, Christ was "conceived" at the time of the winter solstice when the night and darkness are longest; the "light" of the world] - a candle is lit each evening [using a Menorah], with each day of celebration focused on a different aspect of God's community [our "agape" relationship with God and with each other] - Chanukah celebrates the world's first recorded national liberation struggle; a message to the COG that we must not worship at the altar of this world's economic, political and cultural "reality," that we must overthrow all bondage [secular as-well-as religious], that we must rededicate God's Temple [which is *each-and-every one of us*] to God !! [Feast of Dedication 1-3] [based on Tikkun Magazine, Nov/Dec.2000]

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:50 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Feast of Dedication 4

The *will* to define our existence must be *God's Will* !! - we are *all* inspired and backed by God [the common fellowship] - we are to give of our gifts, to make a contribution, to the body of Christ, including the body of knowledge and wisdom [the application of that knowledge; the power of God] - we must promote the advancement of knowledge and dialogue, honestly seeking understanding of any resultant conflicts, we must build on the foundation, the existing truths [the template], all-the-while realizing that knowledge without wisdom is like faith without works - we must utilize *all* that God gives us [faith, reason, revelation, etc.] and realize that blind rejection [without due recourse] is *not* protection of belief [we can easily be the source of each other's negation] - many different attitudes, approaches, methods and

conclusions will be represented [we are the human face of God], a substantial exchange of views, all-the-while trusting God to bring the harmony !! -- this *community of mind*, a complete and authentic presence of individual, begotten human beings, one to another, inspiring each other with the courage to take the risk of being the source of each other's completion, in the full faith of Jesus Christ, reverencing the animating Spirit that dwells within and among us - that which links us is what *ennobles* us and we must be cognizant of this because *holocaust*, the horror of our monstrous *failure of connection* in the COG, will be the tragic result if we don't !!

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:39 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Feast of Dedication 5

Our fellowship must have the *possession of God's mind*, must be fully prepared to show by words or teaching, to do justice to, to protect and defend, the truth of God, and must be ready to refute and to destroy [to cast out and to cast down], *all* decisions, reasoning's and judgments, that are opposed to, or against, the knowledge of God [and the application of that knowledge (worship and power and wisdom); the spiritual gifts], including the underlying consciousness and systemic structures [the "high things", the "higher powers" of hierarchy both secular and religious]; THOSE SELF-EXALTED AGAINST GOD utilizing the suppression of spontaneity, the enacting of roles, the pervasive imposition of "acceptable" behavior, the ensuing artificiality and stress, and, finally, the collective experience that simultaneously divides a group of people by an infinite distance and unites them in the false communion of being-other-than-themselves together !!

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:37 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Feast of Dedication 6

The *perfected and gifted fellowship* must *STILL* the enemy within and without the COG, and the avenger [the curse, the Tribulation holocaust] by the *power of God*, the strength ordained !! -- there is simply no depth of evil to which a church/society cannot sink once it abandons love as its governing principle, and the test of love's authenticity is that in its presence nobody gets harmed !! - therefore the "imaginary and false community" that purports to satisfy our need for connectedness and recognition always reveals its duplicity by having to generate an *unworthy class of non-members* to outwardly personify the "haunting inner demon" of personal alienation - true "agape love" realizes itself through the *affirmation of the other*; we are, to varying degrees and in the aggregate, *blind*, and in our blindness we injure ourselves and our world; we become *lame* - we must examine with righteous perseverance the symptoms and causes of alienation wherever they manifest themselves; we must be *healed* !!

[Feast of Dedication 4-6] [based on Tikkun, Jan/Feb.2001, pp.66-67]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:29 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Tikkun Magazine

Chanukah and Christmas Guides (pdf's) [download page](#)

CHANUKAH

CELEBRATING THE WORLD'S FIRST RECORDED NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE

evening of December 11 to December 19, 2009

The Story

(the non-mythologized version you may never have heard)

... To fight against superior military force was totally illogical and unrealistic from the Hellenizers' standpoint. But the Maccabees rejected assessments of "realism" that derived from the framework imposed by the imperialists, and drew

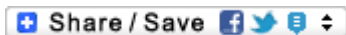
instead upon the Jewish religion and the stubborn spirit of a people who had come to believe that every human being was created in the divine image, hence had a right to be treated with respect and decency. These were people who could not submit to the rule of the imperialist, and whose religion taught them that they need not do so, because the central Power of the universe was a power that rejected the reality of oppression. Their Torah told the tale of their origins in a slave rebellion against another imperialist power thought to be invincible—Egypt of the Pharaohs.

Armed with these stories, the Maccabees and their followers used guerrilla tactics to win the first national liberation struggle in recorded history. In 165 bce they retook Jerusalem, purified and rededicated the Temple (chanukah means dedication), and rekindled the eternal light that was to glow therein. The fighting continued many years more, but eventually the Maccabees and their descendants (called Hashmona'im) set up an independent Jewish state. ...

The miracle was this: a critical mass of people had come to recognize that there was a Force in the world that made possible the transformation of what is to what ought to be (the Force that we call God). That recognition, when it takes hold of large numbers of people, becomes a manifestation of God's presence, and in that presence "the power of the people," suffused with divine energy, becomes greater than all the technology and manipulations of the most sophisticated forms of oppression.

Tikkun [Current and Previous Issues:](#)

Tikkun [Core Vision](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:10 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Jeff Sharlet, The Family, 2008](#)

Jeff Sharlet, The Family [blog entry](#)

From the bookjacket:

They are the Family—fundamentalism's avant-garde, waging spiritual war in the halls of American power and around the globe. They consider themselves the new chosen, congressmen, generals, and foreign dictators who meet in confidential cells, to pray and plan for a "leadership led by God," to be won not by force but through "quiet diplomacy." Their base is a leafy estate overlooking the Potomac in Arlington, Virginia, and Jeff Sharlet is the only journalist to have written from inside its walls.

The Family is about the other half of American fundamentalist power—not its angry masses, but its sophisticated elites. Sharlet follows the story back to Abraham Vereide, an immigrant preacher who in 1935 organized a small group of businessmen sympathetic to European fascism, fusing the Far Right with his own polite but authoritarian faith. From that core, Vereide built an international network of fundamentalists who spoke the language of establishment power, a "family" that thrives to this day. In public, they host prayer breakfasts; in private they preach a gospel of "biblical capitalism," military might, and American empire. Citing Hitler, Lenin, and Mao, the Family's leader declares, "We work with power where we can, build new power where we can't."

Sharlet's discoveries dramatically challenge conventional wisdom about American fundamentalism, revealing its crucial role in the unraveling of the New Deal, the waging of the Cold War, and the no-holds-barred economics of globalization. The question Sharlet believes we must ask is not "What do fundamentalists want?" but "What have they already done?"

CALL ME ISHMAEL [blog home](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:53 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

BARTHOLOMEW'S NOTES ON RELIGION article

The Quest for the Conservative Jesus [article link](#)

Posted on December 4, 2009 by Richard Bartholomew

A few months ago it was announced on the absurd Conservapedia wiki website that plans were underway to create a "Conservative Bible", in which Biblical texts problematic to conservative sensibilities would be expunged.

This is actually a remarkable development: until now, one of the defining hallmarks of conservative Christianity has been that the whole Bible is to be accepted as inerrant and as having been faithfully transmitted. Downgrading particular Biblical passages in the light of reason (such as Thomas Jefferson excising miracles), or due either to ethical re-evaluation (such as a call to remove anti-Jewish passages from the Gospel of John) or textual and historical study (such as the Jesus Seminar) have always been dismissed as undermining the Bible as the Word of God. There may be arguments about points of translation, and over interpretations of difficult texts, but mainstream or liberal Christians whose religious views have been informed by critical approaches are usually excoriated and accused of seeking to marry their faith to the spirit of the age. Yet now we see the son of a major Christian right activist cheerfully consigning parts of the supposed Word of God to the dustbin purely for ideological reasons.

BARTHOLOMEW'S NOTES ON RELIGION [blog home](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:43 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Common Dreams article

Published on Friday, December 11, 2009 by The Independent/UK

Leaders of the Rich World Are Enacting a Giant Fraud [article link](#)
by Johann Hari

Copenhagen Summit

A study by the University of Stanford found that most of the projects that are being funded as "cuts" either don't exist, don't work, or would have happened anyway. Yet this isn't a small side-dish to the deal: it's the main course. ...

A highly complex system operating in the dark is a gift to corporate lobbyists, who can pressure or bribe governments into rigging the system in their favour, rather than the atmosphere's. ...

This system has been made incomprehensible because if we understood, ordinary citizens would be outraged. If these were good faith negotiations, such loopholes would be dismissed in seconds. And the rich countries are flatly refusing to make even these enfeebled, leaky cuts legally binding. You can toss them in the bin the moment you leave the conference centre, and nobody will have any comeback. On the most important issue in the world - the stability of our biosphere - we are being scammed. ...

Common Dreams [home page](#)

Join the movement. For the greater good.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:59 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

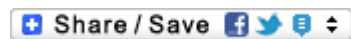
Faith & Life: America

America: A City Set On A Hill [blog link](#)
November 30, 2009 by David McCrory

America is no longer a Christian nation. We are not even a post-Christian nation. We have become, to our own detriment, a Christ-hating, anti-Christian nation, which despises the Lord to the point there is no fear of God among us. The hand of almighty God is heavy upon us, and we rightly deserve His just judgment and grave displeasure. So how can we restore America? Can we ever recapture the former glory of this once great nation? And if so, how? Allow me to suggest we can: By recovering the original Pilgrim and Puritan vision of America as a shining city upon a hill.

Faith & Life [blog home](#)

“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life” ~ I Tim 6:12

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:56 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

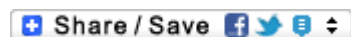
ELIZAPHANIAN quote

[Christianity connives directly in the murder of creation](#) ...

"Despite its protests to the contrary, modern Christianity has become willy-nilly the religion of the state and the economic status quo. Because it has been so exclusively dedicated to incanting anemic souls into Heaven, it has been made the tool of much earthly villainy. It has, for the most part, stood silently by while a predatory economy has ravaged the world, destroyed its natural beauty and health, divided and plundered its human communities and households. It has flown the flag and chanted the slogans of empire. It has assumed with the economists that 'economic forces' automatically work for good and has assumed with the industrialists and militarists that technology determines history. It has assumed with almost everybody that 'progress' is good, that it is good to be modern and up with the times. It has admired Caesar and comforted him in his depredations and defaults. But in its de facto alliance with Caesar, Christianity connives directly in the murder of creation. For in these days, Caesar is no longer a mere destroyer of armies, cities and nations. He is a contradicter of the fundamental miracle of life. A part of the normal practice of his power is his willingness to destroy the world. He prays, he says, and churches everywhere compliantly pray with him. But he is praying to a God whose works he is prepared at any moment to destroy. What could be more wicked than that, or more mad?" (Wendell Berry, author Sex, Economy, Freedom & Community: Eight Essays (quote))

ELIZAPHANIAN [blog home](#)

Watching the Tide Come In

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:33 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

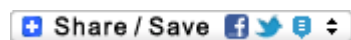
Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Aaron Thomas: Love averts environmental and social catastrophe

Aaron Thomas: Love averts environmental and social catastrophe

I wish to include in the discussion that Jesus Christ in the Gospel does teach an ethic that (in my estimation) averts or powerfully mitigates the environmental and social catastrophes that we are facing. Jesus teaches love: love for God, love for neighbour, love for enemy. Jesus' teaching of Love can be articulated as caring for Creation, caring for the well-being of all other people, caring for enemies (blessing, doing good for, and being kind to, them), taking help from the Spirit of truth.

Aaron Thomas [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:05 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

The Daily Bell interview

Guest Interview

11/29/2009 - with Scott Smith [interview link](#)

Legendary Financial Historian Ed Griffin on the Economic Crisis, the Monetary Elite and the Future of the Internet

excerpts:

Daily Bell: Will the American establishment media ever get to the bottom of 9/11?

Griffin: The American establishment media will never get to the bottom of 9/11 because they are controlled by the same financial and political forces that seem in some sense responsible for 9/11. I am talking about that cluster of personalities on the Council of Foreign Relations and the people that circle around them. They are the ones that are really calling the shots, not only in the government, but also in the media, educational systems, foundations, etc. The media is as much a part of that group as the government. So I don't expect to see the media break step with the official position of the government.

Daily Bell: From our point of view, the Middle Eastern wars are intended to spread Western-style collectivist democracy to the Islamic world. Has the West stumbled in its war against the Muslim religion (failure in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, etc.)?

Griffin: Have they stumbled? In my view, the conflict between the Western world and Islam is largely manufactured. There is no question that there are extreme groups within Islam, but my own research leads me to the conclusion that those are the very groups that have been fronted, aided and abetted by forces within America because they wanted to create an enemy - a dreaded foe to justify all the other schemes.

Daily Bell: The BBC, in a program last year came to a similar conclusion.

Griffin: Without an enemy, they cannot fight a war. Without a war, they cannot justify being in the Middle East. If they are not in the Middle East, they can't control the oil and on and on you go.

Daily Bell: So ... it's at least partially manufactured?

Griffin: The war against Islam is manufactured and is actually a war that need not be. Did they fumble the war? No they created it! They created it and it is just a meme. They don't want to win the war! They want to fight the war for ten years, twenty years, thirty years. They are not fumbling it. It is exactly what they want. It is not a question of winning or losing, it's a question of just having it, prolonging it and using it as a means of scaring the daylights out of the American people and conditioning them to accept the loss of their freedom at home.

The Daily Bell [home page](#)

A Daily Compendium of Free-Market Thought



Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[The Daily Bell article](#)

News & Views

12/8/2009 - by Staff Reports (ARBP)

Recession for a Whopping 20 Years [article link](#)

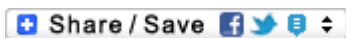
So ... the pace of change is accelerating in the new century and we don't anticipate it slowing any. In our opinion, the "change" actually comes from a series of promotions launched by what we here at the Bell like to call the monetary or power elite. Since the power elite itself in our opinion is an extremely small, powerful and generational force, people often focus on appendages (hundreds if not thousands of them, a purposefully baffling maze) such as the CFR, the Bilderbergs, the Trilateral Commission, etc. In truth these appendages come and go and some provide more sophisticated promotions than others. But what is happening in the world today seems fairly clear, simple even, if one allows oneself the luxury of Occam's razor.

Occam's razor may inform us, if one is willing to accept the premise, that the world's differing promotions are NOT emanating from different places. It does seem that way of course. Climate change is a product of the "Greenies." Central banking is a plot of the banking industry. Overpopulation is a concern for the Club of Rome. Yet are each of these issues, promotions really, and many more, really manufactured by disparate forces and just casually tossed into the media-sphere? They are so many of them, and they are alike! And each one is set up to create a sense of hopelessness and panic. Each one as well, conveniently, demands immediate action and has an authoritarian solution such as the United Nations or its subsidiary, the IMF.

Much easier to decide, if one is so-inclined, that there is indeed a monetary and power elite, a generational (Western) force of wealthy families, individuals and corporate citizens in America and Europe whose interests and coffers are benefitted by increased global control via private-market and government processes. This is not actually a startling insight by the way - as this process is called mercantilism and it has been around for hundreds if not thousands of years. Wealthy families and individuals constantly try to grab the levers of power from behind - and especially in modern times leave government figureheads out front to take the blame for whatever is going wrong.

The Daily Bell [home page](#)

A Daily Compendium of Free-Market Thought



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:44 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Socialist Courier: CAPITALISM IN ACTION

Socialist Courier: CAPITALISM IN ACTION

The case for a transformation of society from one of class division to one of social ownership was made very powerfully by two recent press reports. Here is how the present class division favours a tiny minority. Take the example of John Paulson, a hedge-fund manager in New York. "His firm made \$20 billion between 2007 and early 2009 by betting against the housing market and big financial companies. Mr. Paulson's personal cut would amount to nearly \$4 billion, or more than \$10 million a day." (Wall Street Journal, 15 November)

At the other end of the class division we read of this. "According to the FAO, the number of malnourished people in the world rose to over 1 billion this year, up from 915m in 2008. Economists at the World Bank reckon that the number living on less than \$1.25 a day will rise by 89m between 2008 and 2010 and those on under \$2 a day will rise by 120m". (Economist, 19 November) Some people trying to survive on a couple of dollars a day while some useless parasite rips off millions, don't you think we need a new society? RD

Socialist Courier [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:22 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

The Laymans Corner

The Laymans Corner TLC0189

No man can serve two masters at the same time. Spiritually speaking it is trying to serve both God and Satan at the same time. And it is like trying to stand both in the lights and in the darkness at the same time, it doesn't work. But some are trying it just the same, serving God and Mammon, and Christ and Belial, one foot in the church and the other foot in the service of Satan.

The Laymans Corner [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:03 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

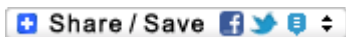
Integral Options Cafe: Karen Armstrong - Think Again: God

Integral Options Cafe: Karen Armstrong - Think Again: God

So-called new atheists such as Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, and Christopher Hitchens have denounced religious belief as not only retrograde but evil; they regard themselves as the vanguard of a campaign to expunge it from human consciousness. Religion, they claim, creates divisions, strife, and warfare; it imprisons women and brainwashes children; its doctrines are primitive, unscientific, and irrational, essentially the preserve of the unsophisticated and gullible.

These writers are wrong -- not only about religion, but also about politics -- because they are wrong about human nature. Homo sapiens is also Homo religiosus. As soon as we became recognizably human, men and women started to create religions. We are meaning-seeking creatures. While dogs, as far as we know, do not worry about the canine condition or agonize about their mortality, humans fall very easily into despair if we don't find some significance in our lives. Theological ideas come and go, but the quest for meaning continues. So God isn't going anywhere. And when we treat religion as something to be derided, dismissed, or destroyed, we risk amplifying its worst faults. Whether we like it or not, God is here to stay, and it's time we found a way to live with him in a balanced, compassionate manner.

Integral Options Cafe [blog home](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:28 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

[rylisms: With Money on Their Minds](#)

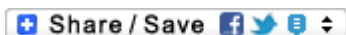
[rylisms: With Money on Their Minds](#)

Did you know that there is a competition for your heart and soul?

It's a winner-take-all contest and you are the one who will cast the deciding vote. The Lord Jesus calls you to walk with Him in faith, trusting in His word and experiencing His presence daily in many personal and powerful ways.

Mammon, on the other hand, holds forth the false promises of security through riches, power through wealth, and influence through affluence.

James Ryle - rylisms [blog home](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:32 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

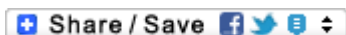
[rylisms: Carriers of the Keys](#)

[rylisms: Carriers of the Keys](#)

Did it ever occur to you that you can actually be the means whereby the Lord extends His love, light, and life to others? You can be the one that makes it possible for someone else to actually experience a real and lasting touch from Jesus; a touch that heals, that forgives, that cleanses, and that transforms.

Christ can make Himself known through your hands, through your words, and through your deeds. You are a carrier of the Keys that opens the Kingdom. And you have been authorized by the King to give away to others what you have freely received yourself.

James Ryle - rylisms [blog home](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:24 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Sunday, December 6, 2009

[Mary Elizabeth Croft excerpt 1](#)

Collectively we have 'created' our world. Truth is, if we want to know what is going on in our minds, we need only observe our circumstances. If we are happy with our circumstances, we can conclude that our minds are somewhat happy and vice versa. Our circumstances follow our thoughts. Nothing is created without thought, thought is the only source of energy, energy is what it takes to create, and energy is all there is. We have 'cause and effect' reversed. Our belief in time and space is what keeps us from knowing real cause and effect. Our circumstances are the result of our thinking, so our judging any situation is based upon our belief that circumstances came first and our response is the result.

The "powers that be" don't want us, whom they consider the 'enemy', to know their secrets. They promote each of us as the other's competition, when in fact our opposition is way closer to home - our very own ego mind. If we continue to believe that 'what is going on in the world' is real and creates fear for us, we must consider that we are continuing to create it. If we want to change the world, which exists only in our own minds, we must first change our minds about the world. When we fear, we serve only the dark entities which David Icke claims thrive on our fear. When we rise above fear, they cease to exist, at least in our minds ... and seeing as everything exists only in our minds ... they will cease to exist - except for those who choose to keep them alive by paying their attention to them. We will win. We are watching a horror movie which ends well. Keep up your spirits in anticipation for the famous final scene.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:56 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Mary Elizabeth Croft excerpt 2

When we are told something over and over, as in programming and mind-manipulation, the public fool system, media, gov't propaganda, TV advertising, TV news, satanic ritualistic cult abuse, billboards, sexual abuse, etc., with any emotion surrounding it (e.g.: the official story on the WTC demolitions) ... then the subconscious mind/ ego accepts it as true and incorporates it into its belief system. When the truth confronts us it is automatically rejected; it simply doesn't fit into the belief system. Its like trying to file into your documents folder, two separate articles with the same title; the computer rejects the second one, even though the second file has the more accurate information (or you wouldn't be bothering to file it). The computer is at least smart enough to request you either change the name of the second file or dump the original, which is what most people do, since the original is no longer true. But the ego mind is more tenacious than a computer because there is emotional identity behind it. Hence, we find closed-minded people who actually think they know what's going on in the world, when in fact, it's all just propaganda. Based upon this premise I offer a solution to what appears to be the sole problem of the world with the intention that once we have information about what seems to be yet isn't, we can change our minds about it, which will empower us to change our beliefs about who we are, which will allow us to change the world, which, by the way, doesn't exist except as a projection of our minds. Thoughts never leave their source - they boomerang.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:54 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Mary Elizabeth Croft excerpt 3

Problem - Reaction - Solution

The ego mind tells us that it will solve all our problems for us. What it doesn't tell us is that it is the cause of all our problems. Does this sound like something we've heard from some other entity? "I'm from the government and I'm here to help." The ego/gov't has a plan:

1. Create a problem;
2. Wait until there is outcry and demand to solve said problem,
3. Reluctantly agree to find a solution for said problem, the cost of which is, in some form, further erosion of our rights and/or integrity, not to mention, already in the works because this was the plan of the ego/problem-creators in the first place.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:52 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Mary Elizabeth Croft excerpt 4

The IBs' (Investment Bankers) Commerce Game is a game only they can win. The Banksters cannot lose; they have forced everyone to play and they have forced everyone into a debt from which we cannot escape. US/CA, as a bankrupt corporation, is owned completely by its creditors - the Bankers. They own all levels of the media, government, education, religion, everything; if you have a birth certificate, they own you too. They control every transaction; they control what is going on in the world; they even control the puppet whom the world blames for the terror and threat of war (GW Bush). Do you like the results of this control? Are you enjoying the game? The only way to win the Commerce Game is not to play. We were never meant to operate in commerce; they tricked us into it and for their benefit. Isn't there something we'd rather be doing? What do banks do with this credit which we created with our signing of promises to pay? They lend it. Banks are not permitted to lend their money or their assets; they are allowed to lend only credit; credit which WE created. There is only liability which is being spread around with the added liability of interest attached to it each time it is used to 'pay' someone. The value of the note is thus diminished each time. Hence, we have inflation. When I ostensibly 'pay' you \$50 for a service you provided me, since I am paying you with notes which were borrowed into existence, and now have interest attached to it, how can it ever get paid? From whence comes the interest to pay when the interest has yet to be borrowed into existence. If I borrow your car, how can I bring back more of your car than I borrowed? It doesn't exist. Every transaction gets us further into a debt which does NOT exist, except in the minds of the Banksters.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:47 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Mary Elizabeth Croft excerpt 5

Will I, somewhere along my path of doing what I want to do, just happen to notice that I am no longer serving a major corporation, but rather my fellow living souls? Corporations, by definition, do not exist. They are legal fictions. The purpose for their alleged existence is for their limited liability and that of the living souls who operate them. The 'law' does not go after an entity who 'owns' nothing. Corporations have nothing to give. You can't get blood from a stone. Now you see why the wealthiest in the world 'own nothing yet control everything'.

We ought to stop wanting to own things, since we can't anyway because we do not have legal title to the things we think we own; we have only equitable title. We are allowed to 'use' that which the state allows us to use. This includes our bodies. We cannot 'own' anything for which we haven't 'paid' or for which we have relinquished title, e.g. our bodies via the birth registration. Since we have nothing with which to pay, we 'own' nothing - unless - we use asset funds to 'pay' for legal title. Unfortunately, unless we have handled our commercial affairs properly, we also cannot 'control' anything.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:45 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Mary Elizabeth Croft excerpt 6

"The Matrix is a system, Neo. That system is our enemy, and when you're inside, and look around, what do you see? Businessmen, Teachers, Lawyers, Carpenters, the very minds of the people we are trying to save. But until we do, these people are still a part of that system and that makes them our enemy. You have to understand: most of these people are not ready to be unplugged, and many of them are so inured, so hopelessly dependent on the system, that they will fight to protect it." - Morpheus - The Matrix. Most people in the world are wholly dependent upon 'The System' and cannot function without it. This system forces them to live in a debt cycle which never ends. The system perpetrates an addiction to materialism for the purpose of producing interest which is created from debt. Since debt does not really exist, then neither does interest. Hence, the national debt is a hoax perpetrated by the PTB (Powers That Be). The biggest con game the world has ever known was perpetrated by those who control education, law, media, churches, banks, medicine. They played upon our innate belief that we must earn our right to life, that we are unworthy, not to trust our intuition, that we must depend upon the authorities, that any punishment we sustain is justified and deserved, that we have no self-generated power, that what is outside our minds is real. They have confiscated our health, wealth, love, and peace of mind under this ruse. This scam is known as The Matrix.

"How I Clobbered Every Bureaucratic Cash-Confiscatory Agency Known to Man" by Mary Elizabeth Croft [read and/or download pdf.](#)

It Is Time To Burn The Strawman [blog link](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:35 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Friday, December 4, 2009

[The Silver Bear Cafe article](#)

The Critical Unraveling of U.S. Society [article link](#)
David DeGraw

The economic elite have launched an attack on the U.S. public and society is unraveling at an increased rate

Report Contents:

- I: U.S. Societal Breakdown
- II: Environmental Crisis
- III: The Obama Myth
- IV: Economic Coup - Theft of Trillions
- V: National Emergency

We have just witnessed the greatest theft of wealth in history, the greatest transfer of wealth from the working class to the economic elite ever. An organized banking cartel has seized the US treasury and they are making up the "laws" and the rules to this rigged game. The covert economy has grown at a staggering rate due to taxpayer-funded injections. As a result of this, economic shackles are just beginning to fall upon the American public like never before. 99% of our nation is now sentenced to a slow death.

The economic elite are operating under the belief that the world is theirs, they own it, and to hell with everyone else. They also take the view that as the environment grows more destructive, they don't want us around to compete for resources.

The Silver Bear Cafe [home page](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [5:48 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

[Who Needs God When We've Got Mammon?](#)

The world's most prosperous (and happiest) countries are also its least religious, new research states. [article link](#)

From Dostoyevsky to right-wing commentator Ann Coulter we are warned of the perils of godlessness. "If there is no God," Dostoyevsky wrote, "everything is permitted." Coulter routinely attributes our nation's most intractable troubles to the moral vacuum of atheism.

But a growing body of research in what one sociologist describes as the "emerging field of secularity" is challenging long-held assumptions about the relationship of religion and effective governance.

In a paper posted recently on the online journal Evolutionary Psychology, independent researcher Gregory S. Paul reports a strong correlation within First World democracies between socioeconomic well-being and secularity. In short, prosperity is highest in societies where religion is practiced least.

Miller-McCune

Turning Research Into Solutions [home page](#)

Is religiosity beneficial in affluent first world nations? [article link](#)

The belief held by some scholars that strong religious belief is the universal human condition deeply rooted in our psyches, may be false. Also contradicted is the hypothesis that evolutionary selective forces have played the leading role in determining the popularity of religion. Environmental conditions appear to exert great influence on the degree to which religious beliefs are held. The popularity of religious belief may be a reflection of a psychological mechanism for coping with the high levels of stress and anxiety resulting from adverse social and economic environments.

Evolutionary Psychology [home page](#)

Evolutionary Psychology is an open-access peer-reviewed journal that aims to foster communication between experimental and theoretical work on the one hand and historical, conceptual and interdisciplinary writings across the whole range of the biological and human sciences on the other.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:15 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

[Bear Witness to the Light: You Cannot Serve Both God And Mammon!](#)

[Bear Witness to the Light: You Cannot Serve Both God And Mammon!](#)

"You cannot serve both God and wealth." It is a common experience that those who have much want more. That must be because what they have does not satisfy them, and they are baited into accumulating more. Greed is a bottomless pit, and nothing can ever fill it. Many misers live very poor lives, in order to die rich! Whatever governs your whole life, right up to your last breath, must be a religion. Either we serve God, or we serve God's main rival, Mammon, the god of greed.

Bear Witness to the Light [blog home](#)

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:08 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Socialist Courier: GOD AND MAMMON](#)

[Socialist Courier: GOD AND MAMMON](#)

"After what it must have deemed a decent interval since triggering a furore over its attack on traders and bankers as "robbers and assassins" last year, the Church of England is shamelessly seeking more yield. ..."

Socialist Courier [blog home](#)

 Share / Save    

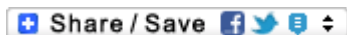
Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:35 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Trend-Signals: The world is possessed by Mammon.

Trend-Signals: The world is possessed by Mammon.

The world is possessed by Mammon. The market reaction to the Dubai world debt just proves how manipulative the mammon is. During the recent years since Greenspan/Bernanke, the greedy power has gotten so big, they literally control the world.

Trend-Signals [blog home](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:28 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Monday, November 30, 2009

SurvivalBlog excerpt 1

Sharing Your Faith After TEOTWAWKI (The End Of The World As We Know It), by D.P.B.

I can't help but notice there being a correlation between preparedness and Christianity. Most people I know who are getting involved, and most of the stuff I read on line is written by Christians. The one thing I haven't read too much about though is what it will look like to share our faith after a collapse. In the grand scheme of eternity being able to grow in your relationship with Jesus and help others do the same is the most important part of being prepared.

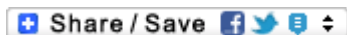
A friend of mine used to own and operate a Christian bookstore. His family bought it in the summer of 2001 and did okay. They were able to make ends meet and they were satisfied knowing they were helping people get closer to God. For the rest of that year following the 9/11 attacks my friend said he was pulling in nearly \$10,000 a day. That was more than they made a month during that summer. He told me that people think more about God when tragedy strikes and we are reminded why we need Him.

Everything goes in cycles. If and when the next Crash/Collapse/Outbreak happens it will not be anything that the historical timeline hasn't seen before. Honestly I'd say we're overdue. One thing that you will find that comes along with almost every huge upheaval is a revival of the things of God. When the world goes to chaos people want to talk about God. They might start by railing against Him, but it doesn't stay that way for long.

When reading your Bible I challenge you to find a passage that even alludes to the idea that when all Hell breaks loose we are to hide and let the damned be damned and the saved be saved. Read through the prophets (especially Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Habakkuk) and you will see what God's chosen are called to do when the SHTF. Just because things get really bad doesn't mean God is giving up on us. Don't start thinking that He has unless he tells you to build an ark and two of every kind of animal show up at your retreat.

When the SHTF we who are Christians we are called to be ever more vigilant. Paul charges Timothy to: "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction" (2 Timothy 4:2). I firmly believe this charge is to all of us who call ourselves believers. We are not exempt from sharing out faith just because things get really difficult.

You are right to assume that I have never shared my faith after a serious collapse. I have been blessed to live in America and do my ministering here. The closest thing I have is ministering after 9/11. What I have more of is experience in sharing my faith with the desolate, homeless, and forgotten and when the SHTF those people will be the majority.



Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:56 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Monday, November 30, 2009

SurvivalBlog excerpt 2

From that experience I offer these points on Sharing your Faith after TEOTWAWKI:

Take Care of Your Family - I promised my God, family, and self that I would not sacrifice my family on the altar of ministry. In 1 Timothy 3:4+5 Paul says of leaders in the church: "He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)." It will be very difficult after TEOTWAWKI to minister to others if your life (spiritually and physically) is not in order. Our first line of ministry is to our families. We must make sure that in the days after a crash that our family is well fed, healthy, and spiritually sound. While working with teens, most coming from broken homes, I have found one of the most Christian things I can say is, "No, I can't go hang out with you I have to spend time with my family." This shows them a better way. Imagine how much we can show by our strong family unit after TEOTWAWKI!

Take Care of Physical Needs of Others - Jesus gave us many beautiful examples of how to minister to both body and spirit. Jesus healed many physically; He fed multitudes, and even made money appear in the mouth of a fish. Jesus never ignored the physical needs of those He was talking to and He never passed up an opportunity to share His faith afterwards. As we prepare, if possible, store up enough provisions for at least another person. Have more than enough ammo, food, junk silver, and supplies to give out freely. This may not be possible right away but as you grow your own food and store it make sure a reasonable portion goes into your "Charity Stash." This will give you ample opportunity to show others what Christ has done in your life. It is very hard to for a hungry person to hear the Gospel over the sound of their own stomach growling.

Take Care of Spiritual Needs of Others - In the aftermath of a serious crash people will be extremely desperate and searching for answers. In times of trouble people start to turn back to God. There are examples of it in the Bible and through out history. People will be in a very open state when they are destitute. In the package you give the people who come to your door be sure to include a copy of the New Testament. A complete version of the Bible would be best, but New Testaments are considerably cheaper and easier to store and hand out. You can pick up Bibles cheaply off Amazon, or CBD.com and library book sales. They may not have a lot of the study guides and fancy stuff but it has the Word. This doesn't mean that everybody you help will fall to their knees and accept Christ on the spot but remember we are called to proclaim the Lord not convert people. Even if somebody leaves your retreat with a bag of rice, some ammo, and a Bible and they don't seem to care you can't know what God has in store for them.

Be part of Community - One of the first things God told Adam in the Garden was: It is not good for man to be alone. (Genesis 2:18). God knows we grow in community. After things start to settle down after the crash it would be good to be part of a community of people both Christians and Non-Christians. Hopefully at your retreat you will be surrounded by people of similar faith and will be able to have daily Bible studies and worship sessions, but after things settle it would be good to meet with others outside the retreat. This may include people from another retreat or refugees squatting in vacant houses and buildings. Starting a church wouldn't be very hard at all and any one with a love for Jesus and good Bible knowledge could take over as head pastor.

In reading the Bible it is impossible to deny that God will at times crash our world in order to get our attention. Habakkuk prayed for God to bring the Israelites back to Himself and God's answer was enemy invasion and seventy years of captivity. It is our duty out of God's love to be prepared to bring others to Christ as long as we draw breath.

SurvivalBlog [home page](#)

SurvivalBlog is dedicated to family preparedness, survival, self-reliance, and self-sufficiency.



Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:53 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Friday, November 13, 2009

[Ekklesia - A New Way of Thinking](#)

Church of England creates 'minister for mammon' [article link](#)

By staff writers 13 Nov 2009

The Commissioners of the Church of England, responsible for managing the Church's £5 billion investments, are to fund a new 'chaplain to the banks'. The new minister for mammon, whose licensing will be held in a bank next week, is a full-time post funded by a three year grant.

"While so much of the church is denouncing the banking community, it is an important time to come and be the new Chaplain to the second largest financial district outside of London and to become part of a Diocese that is wanting to love those who are both taking the flack and at the same time trying to put things right for the industry and the rest of us" he said.

"This is a ministry not just to the financial sector but all areas of the city's business world." According to their last annual report, the Church Commissioners have £75 million invested in HSBC, £11.8 million in Barclays, £8.4 million in Royal Bank of Scotland, £6.4 million in Lloyds TSB.

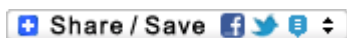
The Church also invests in the largest listed hedge fund Man Group.

Church should invest in alternative economics [article link](#)

commentary by Simon Barrow, co-director of the religion and society think-tank Ekklesia 17 Sep 2009

Ekklesia [home page](#)

Welcome to Ekklesia, the religion and society think-tank at the cutting edge of culture, spirituality and politics.



Posted by mammonmessiah at [5:41 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[Ekklesia - A New Way of Thinking](#)

Bankers are doing "God's work", says Goldman Sachs boss [article link](#)

By staff writers 10 Nov 2009

The chief executive of Goldman Sachs, Lloyd Blankfein, has suggested that top bankers are doing "God's work"

His comments provoked an angry response from Church Action on Poverty (CAP), who declared themselves "puzzled and offended by the assertion that the continual creation of more wealth - concentrated in the hands of those who are already wealthy - is somehow 'God's work'".

CAP spokesperson Liam Purcell insisted that, “When we read the Bible, we see a God who is on the side of the poor, and who offers a vision of a fairer, more just society. The big banks, on the other hand, have played a key role in widening the gap between rich and poor, exploiting and abandoning those who are in poverty.”

He told Ekklesia that “God's work is about sharing our resources more fairly, and building stronger communities.”

Ekklesia [home page](#)

Welcome to Ekklesia, the religion and society think-tank at the cutting edge of culture, spirituality and politics.



Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:18 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Thursday, November 12, 2009

[Mammon as "God's Work"](#)

Reuters [article link](#)

Goldman Sachs boss says banks do "God's work"

LONDON (Reuters) - The chief executive of Goldman Sachs, which has attracted widespread media attention over the size of its staff bonuses, believes banks serve a social purpose and are doing "God's work."

The Business Insider [article link](#)

Goldman Sachs' God's Work Comments Are "Truly Unsettling" (GS)

Lawrence Delevingne Nov. 10, 2009

Goldman Sachs' (GS) latest public relations offensive involves its executives saying their capitalistic endeavors are not just tolerable, but spiritually beatifying. CEO Lloyd Blankfein is recently said to have said he's "doing God's work" by raising money for clients and investing in businesses, according to the [Sunday Times](#). And international adviser Brian Griffiths said last month “The injunction of Jesus to love others as ourselves is an endorsement of self-interest...We have to tolerate the inequality as a way to achieving greater prosperity and opportunity for all,” according to [Bloomberg](#).

The Sunday Times [article link](#)

November 8, 2009

I'm doing 'God's work'. Meet Mr Goldman Sachs

The world's most successful investment bank likes to hide behind the tidal wave of money that it generates and sends crashing over Manhattan, the City of London and most of the world's other financial capitals. But now the dark knights of banking are being forced, blinking, into the cold light of day. The public, politicians and the press blame bankers' reckless trading for the credit crunch and, as the most successful bank still standing, Goldman is their prime target. Here, politicians and commentators compete to denounce Goldman in ever more robust terms - "robber barons", "economic vandals", "vulture capitalists".

The Street [article link](#)

Wall Street Hypocrisy Invokes Jesus to Justify Bonuses: Opinion

By [Ron Insana](#)

I couldn't believe it when I read on Bloomberg today that [Brian Griffiths](#), an international adviser at Goldman Sachs ([GS Quote](#)), uttered these words in a British church last month:

"The injunction of Jesus to love others as ourselves is an endorsement of self-interest," Goldman's Griffiths said Oct. 20, his voice echoing around the gold-mosaic walls of St. Paul's Cathedral, whose 365-feet-high dome towers over the City, London's financial district. "We have to tolerate the inequality as a way to achieving greater prosperity and opportunity for all."

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:24 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

[Rolling Stone Magazine](#)

The Great American Bubble Machine [article link](#)
by MATT TAIBBI Posted Jul 13, 2009

From tech stocks to high gas prices, Goldman Sachs has engineered every major market manipulation since the Great Depression - and they're about to do it again.

Inside The Great American Bubble Machine [article link](#)
by MATT TAIBBI Posted Jul 02, 2009

Matt Taibbi on how Goldman Sachs has engineered every major market manipulation since the Great Depression.

The Big Takeover [article link](#)
by MATT TAIBBI Posted Mar 19, 2009

The global economic crisis isn't about money - it's about power. How Wall Street insiders are using the bailout to stage a revolution.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:06 PM](#) [1 comments](#) 

[Tikkun Magazine](#)

Just Say "NO" to the War in Afghanistan [article link](#)
by Michael Lerner

- Acknowledge the Causes of Terrorism
- A Strategy to Disempower Terrorists
- What Keeps the United States from Adopting a Rational Strategy in Afghanistan?

Why Capitalism Shouldn't Be Saved [article link](#)
by John Sanbonmatsu

As of spring 2009, the leading capitalist states in Europe, North America, and Asia have thus either spent outright, or exposed themselves to financial risks totaling, well over \$10 trillion - a figure so vast that one searches in vain for any relevant historical parallel. By comparison, the entire Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe after World War II cost a mere \$9.3 billion (in constant 2005 dollars). According to the United Nations, it would cost \$195 billion to eradicate most poverty-related deaths in the Third World, including deaths from malaria, from malnutrition, and from AIDS. So the amount of money committed by policymakers to save capitalism from itself is already fifty times greater than what it would take to save tens of millions of human beings from terrible daily suffering and premature death. If the wealthy nations instead invested that \$10 trillion into the economies, health systems, and infrastructure of the Third World, rather than transferring

it to the world's richest banks, private financial institutions, and investors, they could usher in a new epoch in the history of the species - a world community in which every human being would be guaranteed a livable life.

Tikkun [Current and Previous Issues:](#)

Tikkun [Core Vision](#)

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [8:36 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Z Magazine - The Spirit of Resistance Lives

Liberation Psychology for the U.S. [article link](#)

Are we too demoralized to protest?

By Bruce E. Levine

Shortly before the 2000 U.S. presidential election, millions saw a clip of George W. Bush joking to a wealthy group of people, "What a crowd tonight: the haves and the haves more. Some people call you the elite; I call you my base." Yet, even with this kind of inflammatory remark, millions of U.S. citizens who came to despise Bush and his arrogance remained passive. Thus, the focus of U.S. liberation psychology need not be on U.S. citizens gaining consciousness of injustices, as many of these injustices are already in plain sight. Instead, U.S. liberation psychology must focus on how we can be made whole again, so as to regain strength to fight for ourselves and our communities.

Fundamentalist Consumerism and an Insane Society [article link](#)

By Bruce E. Levine

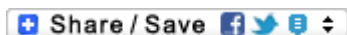
Erich Fromm, 54 years ago, concluded: "Man [sic] today is confronted with the most fundamental choice; not that between Capitalism or Communism, but that between robotism (of both the capitalist and the communist variety), or Humanistic Communitarian Socialism. Most facts seem to indicate that he is choosing robotism and that means, in the long run, insanity and destruction. But all these facts are not strong enough to destroy faith in man's reason, good will, and sanity. As long as we can think of other alternatives, we are not lost."

Notes on Anarchism [article link](#)

By Noam Chomsky

[Originally published in For Reasons of State (1973)]

I am a fanatic lover of liberty, considering it as the unique condition under which intelligence, dignity and human happiness can develop and grow; not the purely formal liberty conceded, measured out and regulated by the State, an eternal lie which in reality represents nothing more than the privilege of some founded on the slavery of the rest; not the individualistic, egoistic, shabby, and fictitious liberty extolled by the School of J.J. Rousseau and other schools of bourgeois liberalism, which considers the would-be rights of all men, represented by the State which limits the rights of each -- an idea that leads inevitably to the reduction of the rights of each to zero. No, I mean the only kind of liberty that is worthy of the name, liberty that consists in the full development of all the material, intellectual and moral powers that are latent in each person; liberty that recognizes no restrictions other than those determined by the laws of our own individual nature, which cannot properly be regarded as restrictions since these laws are not imposed by any outside legislator beside or above us, but are immanent and inherent, forming the very basis of our material, intellectual and moral being -- they do not limit us but are the real and immediate conditions of our freedom.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [7:45 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Saturday, October 31, 2009

Mammon or Messiah

Mammon or Messiah Book 1 (full text) excerpts: [link](#)

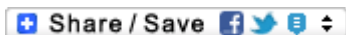
 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:58 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 1

schemes of partition - ravages of identity politics - new forms of communal relationships needed - divided spaces vs. open_spaces - the conflict of peoples and memories - resolution in division, partition vs. resolution in cooperation, harmony - the legacy of empire unforgiving (ie., the mid-east); the pathology of power vs. nationalism - the UK divide and quit policy resulted in communal struggle to partition - immemorial hatreds engendered; disharmony - selected, abridged national narratives; divergent stories from the same sources tend to block out one another; the investments made in each story, the costs and miseries; when considered one is overwhelmed and staggered; there is no way to contain all these many histories; construction of identities result in distortion; exterminating or coexisting is dependent on the degree of distortion -- the attempt to take one's mind from the world vs. thinking; to think is to ignore differences, to consider; must memory and identity exist to the concision of the other (the person; the society) - a serious effort to confront, to work through, to build a new consensus from and on it (the effort) -- reintegration vs. living off conflicts and division; secular civic struggles.

the importance of secular citizenship vs. fractionalist, falsifying, contradictory memories; determinants in the construction of identity, coherence, coexistence; a return - identity is a burden, an inhibitor; national consciousness must be converted into social consciousness - identity is something that must be gotten over - collective past and identity are the result of conscious reconstruction open to manipulation; roles redefined (creative reconstruction; narrow narratives) to justify present desires, dominance (a reinforcing role); national systems of history all teach that its history is the center of the world vs. the universality of humankind (an ideological construction of a form of education); diversity ignored; clash of definitions taking place all over the world; cultural difference are always unsettled, and always connected to arenas of power.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:50 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 2

the role of geography is connected to ideologies; cognitive dissonance, irreconcilable differences; wildly differing memories - discrepancy in representations; felt separation, opposition (sense); existentialist dilemma - ethnic separations (pure states ??); partitions reproduce the conflicts they were intended to replace - human complexity; irreconcilable differences cannot be solved but there must be mediation, solution; reconciliation between different areas of experience; correspondences (categories) -- the notion of social territory; domain; materiality (share and contest) vs. the urgent need for a secular (non-religious; non-national; non-either/or) consciousness to assess the dogmas, the distorted logic's (the logic of false dichotomies; the -ism's) -- all human experience cannot be reduced to one geography and one identity (human history of migration and mixture not of settlement) -- we must accept to accentuate and highlight and deepen the collective experiences of the past; to see conflicts as differing communities of suffering; antagonisms must be illuminated; painful memories must be overcome; life must go on.

neo-liberalism, globalization vs. communal coexistence - corporate defense and security apparatus -- equitable and humane community is a task we all must be committed to vs. "I versus you"; the growing distinction between the "haves" and the "have not's"; the mythology of scarcity promulgated by the corporations; the problem is one of distribution, entitlement NOT scarcity -- education is paramount vs. the nationalist, the "I" - new ways of thinking needed (belonging, stability); the

ebb and flow of historical currents vs. fixed communities - identities always overlap; a more fluid conception is needed vs. identity stubbornness; the world is interdependent; education must overcome NOT reinforce national identities (the corporate definition). -- [Notes 1,2] [based on NPR, Alternative Radio, professor Edward Said, "Unresolved Geographies, Unresolved Landscapes", author of "Orientalism", and "The Pen and the Sword", Dec.99]

[+ Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:44 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 3](#)

anarchist violence (ie., Seattle-WTO, Nov.99 and many examples since) alienates the mainstream population - we must provide an alternative, outflank the corporate society, surround it, engulf it, using "non-violent" education (Gospel preached) and example (witness); have I gone too far or have others not gone far enough ?? - we are what we are, but who determines what we are ?? - we have to go beyond the point that others will not go; we must move beyond the distinctions between our physical and spiritual existence, ie., "USURP" (United States Urban Revolutionary Project to take back America), "rev" up your politics (2nd American Revolution), a "living movement" of direct democracy [consensus]; civitas vs. the temporary SAGE accommodation with representative democracy (truly a contradiction in terms) - community kindred vs. SAGE society's kin_dread - citizen_steward vs. subject-consumer -- know_ledge; committing knowledge suicide; falling off the ledge, not wanting to know - rogation [question, prayer, entreaty; in ancient Rome a proposal of law to be passed or rejected by the people] vs. abrogation of responsibility; rogationist, rogationism (question all; the finding of answers; seeking truth) -- the devil is in the details; we have institutionalized the devil in our non-consensual dogmatic organizations - the SAGE are of Abraham's seed physically but are of Satan's seed spiritually.

[+ Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:34 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 4](#)

Christ taught "living ideas" NOT dogma; a *living* faith; dogma is death; [G2198 zao, AV live, be alive, alive, quick, lively; 1) to live, breathe, be among the living (not lifeless, not dead) 2) to enjoy real life i.e. to have true life and worthy of the name; active, blessed, endless in the kingdom of God 3) to live i.e. pass life, in the manner of the living and acting; of mortals or character 4) living water, having vital power in itself and exerting the same upon the soul 5) metaph. to be in full vigor; to be fresh, strong, efficient, as adj. active, powerful, efficacious]. -- the Gospel was built on a *sure foundation* (the OT, the group identity existent) and the communitarian message must be built on the same [as attempted in the US Constitution and the Declaration of Independence (a reflection of the biblical ideals)]; we must see beyond our doubts; we must seek understanding; the "Logos" vs. the logo's [the corporate_logos (logo-type, a distinctive company signature, trademark, set of letters, or word, etc.); Logos n., Gr. Philos., reason, thought of as constituting the controlling principle of the universe and as being manifested by speech; 2 Christian Theol., the eternal thought or word of God, made incarnate in Jesus Christ].

[+ Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:29 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 5](#)

1990s distrust, fear of government - anti-government streak, ie., Republican "contract with America", rise of militia groups -- inefficient "Continental Congress" 1-year terms, no judiciary ... we the people of the United States ... to form a more *perfect* union (not perfection, but one that has all its parts; efficiency but far from equal; legislature supreme -- the militia movement is not the minutemen (most underarmed, ready to desert) that has been romanticized - "... the right of men to bear arms" a military term (all the apparatus of war); the right of private ownership is a relatively modern interpretation - the Constitution is somewhat like the Bible; every new generation reinterprets to its own ends -- the ideal of a "citizen politician" was tried early on and left out of the constitution - in the Continental Congress there were one-year terms with a rotation of terms, with a limit - Madison argued for stability, institutional memory vs. term limits - there is a change of

quantity in today's government, all around us; a regulatory role needed in a global world; it is more apparent today - a movement to disarm government even from its proper roles either by force or withdrawal - constitutional language misleading, loose, assumed, ie., the CIA is an unconstitutional body due to its secret funding (the constitution provides for the open reporting of all government funding). -- [NPR, Gary Wells author, "A Necessary Evil, A History of American Distrust of Government", Dec.99]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:26 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 6](#)

government is *NOT* a necessary evil - "citizen politician" does not mean a substitutional representative with term limits; each citizen a politician with a life term (stability; institutional memory) - "a people whose sole "political" function is to vote for delegates is no people at all; it is a "mass", an agglomeration of monads; politics, as distinguished from the social and statist, involves the re-embodiment of masses into richly articulated assemblies, the formation of a body politic in an arena of discourse, shared rationality, free expression, and radically democratic modes of decision-making; this process is interactive and self-formative" (-Murray Bookchin).

personal and group identity - manufacturers inventing personas (name brands, labels); choosing of pre-manufactured identities -- low-brow, middle-brow, high-brow, non-distinct no-brow (socially constructed boxes; confined within bounds; trying to "fit in") - cultural marketing; the language of clothes; categories *imposed* on us - taste as a marker of class; taste and choice levels; ladder between strata does not exist anymore - so far down on the bottom-level I can't afford myself vs. negating the ideal; high-society slumming it - the "clique" a social class all its own - social implications; awareness beyond oneself lacking -- the avant-garde [the leaders in new or unconventional movements, esp., in the arts; vanguard] absorbed into the mainstream; intellectual accessibility increasing -- new money trying to look like old money; nouveau-rich better than no-rich; visual tags replacing the auditory tags, the tone of richness; the class accents - the support of corporate slavers, oppression and misery around the world, indentured servitude; the fact of people of color especially, wearing these clothes, giving support to slavery, needs a rethink [ie. NIKE] !!

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:20 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 7](#)

we have to go back to making our_own (clothes, food, community); a return to our *senses* vs. not a participant in society but a consumer of society - we have to return to participation; active_citizens; civitas - consuming is not a ladder to reach the top; class distinction - community must be made level; *all* made in the image and likeness of God vs. the cultural hierarchy -- reclaim yourself; take back what is rightfully yours (physically and spiritually); bring back meaning into your life and in the lives of those around you; those who *truly* make you who you are !! - our existence is God ordained; it is not something that has to be bought; we should not need a license to live [money]; our existence is a contribution freely given and distributed !! - our choices in the next few years will determine our children's future; the cumulative weight of *unshared* values, abilities, our social wealth will crush us in our pursuit of private desires, our incomprehensible selfishness (the corporate realm); a diminished, unnourished, ignored conscience will not support us, and our intellect and our society will follow; elevated beings reduced to a base existence, the loss of the spiritual - America must return to herself; the "mainstream" media is an open sewer; we have to return to the "streams of consciousness", the "rivers of truth"; the source is *America*, the *ideal* is enshrined in her people, the collective consciousness, the consciousness reflected in the constitution; diminished values mean a diminished America; we must live the "Sermon on the Mount", the ultimate strength, a society of the gift.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:16 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Friday, October 30, 2009

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 8](#)

we are not globalizing our civic culture, we are globalizing our commercial culture - earning our money to be a good consumers; when are we going to be good citizens? - America is a multicultural society; the question is not whether America can survive globalization, the question is can the world survive America [here defined as corporate America with it's small "g" god, the emmonic (emotion/money: the psychosis(-sys)), the SAGE usurpation; this is not the America enshrined in her people] - the result of America's role in globalizing is that the world is looking like a particular *kind* of America, a commercialized America defined by its "pop culture" -- the corporate claim that free-trade, open-markets, currency speculation, ideals proposed for the last 10 years = democracy; "market-democracy" or democratic markets, free-capitalism leads to democracy; the message to the world has been to look like America politically you must look like America commercially; the American *myth* -- capitalism works in many different political systems - democracy comes first, capitalism comes second; democracy provided foundations for capitalism, not the other way around (globalization) - 150 years prior to 1776 democracy was building to independence; it was not until after the Civil War [1860's] that free-market, corporate capitalism emerged - Russia today [no civil society] is taking a "capitalist cold-shower" without a democratic foundation, "mafiaocracy" is the result -- the *civil society* sector must be primary, the foundation; where we live; free-institutions, voluntary associations; where we learn citizenship, where we adjudicate interests, where we learn to be engaged, where we learn the art of liberty !!

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:34 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 9](#)

a vibrant, robust life of community and associations; citizens joined together; the *Spirit of Liberty* is local - society loose, open, engaged - America is no longer engaged [where *trust* grows], neighbors no longer trust one another; common interest, play, worship is on the decline; social-capital is on the decline, institutions are on the decline; more individualism = we no longer share the same community -- in early America the economy was built into the *local* social economy, no big corporations, society was open and engaged; after the Civil War, oil was found / large corporations, economic sector / regulations and big government [the corporate economy]; post-WWII / present: era of big government, big business; civil society increasingly crushed; individuals now naked, no control over their own situations in the entertainment-corporate economy [civil society displaced, ie., sports now professional entertainment, bought-and-sold; common ideals lost] - America's identity split; in civil society we are citizens, in the corporate society we are consumers-customers-clients, we are no longer citizens; we now vote with our dollars, our consumer tastes, our private desires vs. our community needs, the needs to develop healthy culture - our private choices have community consequences - democracy is NOT just freedom to buy !!

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:32 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 10](#)

private-consumer decisions vs. public-civic decisions; people doing and taking what they want -- in the 1930s we began to think the "state" will take care of us - our autonomy, responsibility destroyed - today the state cannot take care of anything, but now the "market" will take care of us -- privatization of everything including culture, education; selling ourselves to corporations; scientists mostly now working for private interests, patents, vs. the public interest - prisons increasingly in private hands; crime does pay -- we are only globalizing our markets, our corporations, our commercial culture; choice is only about "private" choice NOT public, civic choice - there are no international civic or political institutions only commercial, ie. WTO, the governing institutions -- the culture of "McWorld", the essence of *fast* not slow (ie., democracy, culture, art, education, relationships), the civilization of fast (taking everything out of the social culture, the slow) - the Mall as public-square; total-consumption ethic, no place to rest, slow-down; few restaurants but many food-

courts (fast food) - commerce now becomes "needs" not just the manufacture of goods and services; we now have "new needs", ie., records/cd/dvd; new formats, new hardware, etc.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:29 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 11](#)

our important needs for community, religion, relationships, family get set aside; we have no time for the important needs; increasingly commerce creeps in everywhere, ie., the Internet; an encroachment; both the state and the market were to be facilitators but are now usurpers -- the decreasing of plurality of markets around the world; people are compound beings, growth and development only comes through the "slow" - our culture caters to the 12 year-old in all of us vs. the spiritually increased; we don't cater to the parts of us that we most admire, we cater to the most juvenile, base aspects - civilization and culture were designed to cater to the highest and best in us; slow and patience vs. the fast and easy (giving us what we want) -- America is exporting our trash, a cartoon existence; we are losing the best of our civilization; culture and play, religion and education; we learned to take one another seriously in the local neighborhood, where democracy was born; community - we need global civic institutions, people-to-people, neighbor-to-neighbor, people with shared interests, civic infrastructure, not around government but around our commonalities - we need to branch out to each other -- Europe is being built around the new "Euro" not around its people, a technocratic corporate entity NOT civic in nature; *civil society* (the third way, the third realm) must be exported, the America of civil rights, worker rights, democracy NOT the America of Disney and company. -- [Notes 8-11] [NPR, Alternative Radio, Benjamin Barber (Rutger's Univ.) "McWorld and the Free-Market Threat To Democracy", Univ. of Colorado at Boulder, Dec.99, with [inserts]]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:24 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 12](#)

corporate_eugenics; seeking to improve humanity by breeding from the fitter stocks - the denial of basic human needs and the belief that we can be everything we want to be (only if you fit within the narrow confines of the corporate definition) - social Darwinism, "the idea that in a laissez-faire capitalist economy the strong will out compete the weak, resulting in general improvement of the population, inspires political agendas today - in this view, the poor should not be aided in their struggle for existence so as not to upset the natural order" [Sci-American, "The End of Nature versus Nurture", Dec.99, p.98]; the danger from the extreme, the biological determinism of the Nazis and the social engineering of the Soviet Communists, to place the collective above the individual, have been widely accepted as failed, excised from the collective human consciousness; yet we now see human behavior determined by the emmonic [emotion/money psychosis(sys)], an economic incentive structure appealing to the worst in human nature, equating individuality as promoting the greater good; the ultimate in social engineering; massive indoctrination apparatus (the corporate media, advertising, education system, psychology, etc.); the SAGE have done the Nazis and Soviets proud, utilizing (and planning to utilize, ie., biological determinism) the most efficient machinations of their underlying selectionist ideology to place the new collective (corporations) above the individual -- any attempt to redefine humans can be carried only so far before a counter-movement will seek to balance cultural trends with evolved human inclinations.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:21 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Friday, October 30, 2009

Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 13

making social revolution inevitably means being in society, making a concerted attempt to articulate society's discontents to itself [ministrant]; a comprehensive critique of society; through a process of small refusals and developing critique, the possibilities of further refusals, deepened critique and ultimately revolution may be increased; praxis; gradual refusal of participation in the state as well as the broader oppressive architecture of technology [John Connor] -- the real, ultimate value of our ideas will be in leading us to a better way of life, not what we think is a better way of life, or what we want to think is a better way of life, but what people everywhere can embrace as an existence which is happier, freer and simply more fulfilling; it is really important to think in terms of solutions, we see an existence that seems to offer so much more than what we have now, it is up to us to prove it and make it accessible both to ourselves and humanity [John Filiss] -- changing one's personal life, "everyday life", is ultimately the motivation for changing society, and changing society is ultimately the goal of propaganda, and one's personal life and attempts at changing society can serve as propaganda themselves; propaganda of the deed [Leif Fredrickson] -- anarchists are to some degree complicit with the system which oppresses, coerces and exploits them, in part, this is why anarchists want to abolish this system: in order to overcome this enforced complicity [John Moore].

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:19 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 14

we live in a world of contradictions; that's the nature of a society based on power and power relations - if we're to come to grips with transforming this world in a revolutionary anarchist fashion, then we'd better get used, not to living with those contradictions, but to striving with and against them, and make sure that we make the optimal use of our creative capacities to overcome them - the anarchist condition, in the world of power, is one of living out lives of creative contradiction; and, uncomfortable as it may feel, that creative contradiction, that tension, remains the source for all our insurgency [John Moore] -- we must strive to live in a manner consistent with our ideals, to escape the "double standard" of trying to live in this world without being a part of it - unfortunately, we do not live in a free world and therefore cannot simply act or live-out our beliefs as if we did; living in this nightmare involves compromises and contradictions, and there are some things we don't have much say over presently - this does not signal hypocrisy or lack of credibility, but rather, points out how completely and utterly dependent we have all become, how interwoven technology [the SAGE infrastructure] is throughout society to the point where *choice to live* has been all but deleted - the fight to have that choice restored (indeed to have it flourish) is fraught with paradox and inconsistency, and most of us wrestle with these dilemmas everyday in our own minds for each technology we decide to use [Jonathan Slyk].

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:16 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 15

most of society is not conscious of these inherent dilemmas, or if they are, feel helpless to do anything about it; most are not even aware that they have no choice and seem to agree with the choices made for them; people respond to affirmation not criticism; people must be made aware of these dilemmas within their ideational frameworks, of *their* contradictions and inequality within society; people must grow aware (from within, not from without, self-motivation) of their relationship with each other, to go past the edge of what they know about themselves and discover new aspects [strategic questioning]; we each must carry our own opinions in a way that does not interfere with dialogue, respect and co-creation of alternatives; the direction and energy for change is contained in the people involved in the situation, it must be brought up to the surface

and helped to ripen, individually and collectively; we have access, we don't need external permission, we have our own permission [Jonathan Slyk] -- why should the amount of money in someone else's pocket determine the amount of freedom you should have, your access to the commons ?? - if you think one day I will have equal access as the monied, think again, it is a fixed game !! - the SAGE wield a tactical weapon [the "emmonic" (emotion and money wedded together)]; the many are deceived, only a few succeed - the "greed potential" determinant, how big are your dollars; small, medium, or big dollars; the emmonic measurement; what is your emmonic potential, quotient, share ?? - privileged information vs. the common information privilege.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:09 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 16](#)

eCommunity; telecommunity; community (pla)networks: progressive, libertarian, anarchic -- the "global-village" cannot exist within the "emmonic" [emotion/money as one (fear psychosys)] context, this is false community, another SAGE construct -- the community spirit does not exist within the *denomination of one*, the new individualism or the *self-help* movement in seeking spiritual meaning, neither in living vicariously through others; music, movies, soaps, sitcoms, etc. -- strung out trying to make ends meet; time to shorten the rope vs. working your way to the bottom; if our only motivation is private profit then there really is no hope; we must become "a society of the gift" - monetary success is not an indication of God's blessings; *real* wealth = community, family, etc., the blessings are from above; seek first the Kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you; this is a *promise* from God !! - Psalms 50:23 Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth [his] conversation [H1870 1) way, road, distance, journey, manner 1a) road, way, path 1b) journey 1c) direction 1d) manner, habit, way 1e) of course of life 1f) of moral character] [aright] will I shew the salvation of God.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:01 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 17](#)

social renegade; (re)negation -- who am I when I am with others ?? - who are they when they are with me ?? - environmental feedback; how people react and interact with you; identity, habitus, etc. -- social morals, ethics quick and tasteless; the recipe of life forgotten -- situational ethics; who determines the situation ?? -- calm, collected, concise vs. argumentative, adversarial; we have to ignite the light in others, to provide the kindling needed, not snuff out any spark of interest by a big gust of wind; the light will remove the shadow of oppression -- we must become "David's" vs. Goliath, we must hit Goliath at his weakest point, between the eyes, the "seat of the intellect", the conscious support by society at large [veneration without comprehension]; the rock, the *living* rock, the Word of truth; the SAGE "Stone Kingdom" must be negated, sandblasted out-of-existence, we are the grains of sand [Jacob's pillow stone; stones; the *vision*]; let us reason together !! - contribute your intelligence, your gifts; we must begin to shape events, we must put a stop to events shaping us !! -- we must utilize co-intelligence, strategic questioning; the most appropriate place for us to be is in relationship with each other, acknowledging that you sense reality from your perspective and that a natural confluence in our relationship will bring us to an appropriate place which I, in true humility, don't yet fully know; the fact that you and I will have to rework it considerably to fit our own sensibilities does not contradict the approach; we must be sensitive to human diversity and the ramifications of that diversity [Tom Atlee].

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:57 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 18

no message form is perfect; we must continually reinitialize the data stream, we have to unplug, blank the screen -- the matrix -- it's the question that drives us, the looking, the seek; the answer will find us if we want it to; it is looking for us (God is seeking those who would worship Him) - we must morph - accept what you see, expect to wake up to the reality - there is something wrong with the world, the feeling, it is there, a splinter in your mind driving you mad - the question is, do you want to know ?? - the world pulled over your eyes to blind you from the truth; the truth is that we are slaves, born into bondage, born into a prison that we cannot smell, taste or touch; a prison for our minds - time is always against us; we have to see the world for what it is NOW, we must react !! - the answers will come, we must go to the source; there is nothing we can say to explain it, it must be experienced; it is a *living* faith -- the construct, the "loading program", the pointing information; sub_versive, con_versant vs. SAGE authority; we are a singular consciousness at the moment fractured -- the matrix, the SAGE construct, image (the programmed reality) = control; we must reconstruct the fractured human puzzle, remake the matrix in God's image, our image -- adaptation, improvisation; adaptation is the key to survival; don't think you are, KNOW you are !! - free your mind, walk through the door; fear, doubt, disbelief has to be let go; make the jump, the leap of faith; your mind makes it real; a strategic question is often an unaskable question, it really challenges the values (and assumptions) that the whole issue rests on.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:23 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 19

the matrix is a system, that system is the enemy; most are not ready to be unplugged; many are so inured [to make accustomed to something difficult, painful, etc., habituate], so hopelessly dependent on the system they will fight to the death to protect it; if you are not one of us then you are one of them; the SAGE operons = sentient programs, gatekeepers (everyone and no one); we have to stand, exist outside of their rules -- ignorance is NOT bliss, it is the denial of humanity; who we really are, our God given potential; the Family of God; the matrix cannot tell you who you are, it will deny you; it will deny you your existence !! -- pointing information, a guide to help you find the path; it can only show you the door, you have to walk through it -- only try to realize the truth, don't force the issue, you are the one who has to bend -- know thyself vs. blind faith; God sees all, we must strive to see also; God's many names are our names; our conduct must reflect the knowledge and wisdom given us; this is the EXIT from the matrix -- the matrix can be more real than reality to the many; once we are out we can never really be inserted again -- the beauty, the genius, the marvel of the matrix, yet reality defined by misery, suffering; doing our thinking for us, civilization coopted, the future perfect world is but a dream, never to be reached -- we can approach utopia, it is waiting for us; ZION, the New Jerusalem is a reality !! - it is our choice, only we can make the decision; our own internal logic the determinant; strategic questioning dialogue not adversarial debate; responsible collective inquiry, co-intelligence.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:20 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 20

no one has ever done anything like this, that is why it will work -- it's all in the packaging -- mental strength; we have to believe to make it real; there is a difference between knowing the path and walking the path; we have to choose to be chosen; we must begin to believe, we must have faith; we must overcome the adversary: the alienated, privileged attitudes - feel the adversary, he is afraid; he does not want the world to see; he is afraid of us, of change; we are not here to tell you how it will end, but to tell you how it will begin; a world without the SAGE, a world of possibilities; we will show you a world without rules, and controls, a world without orders and boundaries; where we go from there is up to you, us; the mutually evocative and co-creative dynamic of reality, the way things evoke and shape each other, providing contexts, motivators, resources, history and meaning to each other; we all co-create our shared reality, not a world where you create

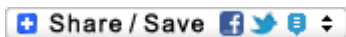
your own reality; the insight that we are *extended selves* not just particular bodies or personalities, we will change each other; our potential is realized through infinite webs of interrelationships that are continually developing. -- [Notes 18-20] [based on The Matrix motion picture and Co-Intelligence, with inserts, blended]



Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:19 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 21](#)

the Bible is a "Book of Intelligence", the Word; the revealed knowledge of the Tree of Life, at the center of the Garden of Eden, the fertile mind; the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil; Wisdom, the Knowledge of the Holy; Reason; the God Kind, Intell_Kind -- mental divergence, a substitute reality; a meticulously constructed fantasy world; constructed to erase the race, the potential -- the "Cassandra Complex" (Gr. myth, she was condemned to know the future, yet disbelieved when she told it); a self-inflicted agony, the agony of foreknowledge combined with the seeming impotence to do anything about it; either we are in control of our own minds or others will be !! -- life will be wonderful when the options aren't extra; we must begin a transfusion of the life blood of society; we must replace the SAGE blood; an INJECTION OF NEW LIFE !! - we must initiate the alternative; life cannot come from non-life.

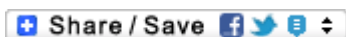


Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:17 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 22](#)

Bohmian Dialogue: the late quantum physicist David Bohm observed that both quantum mechanics and mystical traditions suggest that our beliefs shape the realities we evoke - he further postulated that thought is largely a collective phenomenon, made possible only through culture and communication; human conversations arise out of and influence an ocean of cultural and transpersonal meanings in which we live our lives, and this process he called dialogue; most conversations, of course, lack the fluid, deeply connected quality suggested by this oceanic metaphor; they are more like ping-pong games, with participants hitting their very solid ideas and well-defended positions back and forth; such conversations are properly called discussions; "discussion," Bohm noted, derives from the same root word as "percussion" and "concussion," a root that connotes striking, shaking and hitting.

dialogue, in contrast, involves joining our thinking and feeling into a shared pool of meaning which continually flows and evolves, carrying us all into new, deeper levels of understanding none of us could have foreseen [LIFE]; through dialogue "a new kind of mind begins to come into being," observed Bohm, "based on the development of common meaning ... people are no longer primarily in opposition, nor can they be said to be interacting, rather they are participating in this pool of common meaning, which is capable of constant development and change" - Bohm's approach to dialogue involved participants working together to understand the assumptions underlying their individual and collective beliefs; collective reflection on these assumptions could reveal blind spots and incoherence's from which participants could then free themselves, leading to greater collective understanding and harmony; Bohm maintained that such collective learning increases our collective intelligence [Tom Atlee, Co-Intelligence].



Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:15 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 23](#)

the Christian Faith is about dominion NOT domination, denomination; the anarchism which acts by means of persuasion, by the creation of small groups and networks, by example; denouncing falsehood and oppression, aiming at a true overturning of authority of all kinds as people at the bottom speak and organize themselves vs. the despair when the solidity of the system is seen, when impotence is felt face-to-face with an increasingly conformist society, or an increasingly powerful administration, or an invincible economic system (who can arrest multinationals?); and recourse to violence as a kind of cry of despair, an ultimate act by which an effort is made to give public expression to one's

disagreement and hatred of the oppression; it is our present despair which is crying aloud; but it is also the confession for some, that there seems to be no other course of action and no reason to hope.

not using violence against those in power does not mean doing nothing; Christianity means a rejection of power and a fight against it; this was completely forgotten during the centuries of the alliance of throne and altar, the more so as the Pope became a head of state, and often acted more as such than as head of the church - the political game can produce no important changes in our society and we must radically refuse to take part in it; society is far too complex; interests and structures are far too closely integrated into one another; we cannot hope to modify them by the political path; the example of multinationals is enough to show this - in view of global economic solidarity it is impossible to change the economy of a country even when in power; those who say that a global revolution is needed if we are not simply to change the government are right.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:10 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 24](#)

but does that mean that we are not to act at all, overwhelmed by the prospect?; this is what we constantly hear when we advance a radical thesis; as if the only mode of action were political! - anarchy first implies conscientious objection: to everything that constitutes our capitalist (or degenerate socialist) and imperialistic society; conscientious objection is objection not merely to military service but to all the demands and obligations imposed by our society: to taxes, to vaccination, to compulsory schooling, etc., we must unmask the ideological falsehoods of the many powers, and especially we must show that the famous theory of the rule of law which lulls the democracies is a lie from beginning to end; the state does not respect its own rules; we must distrust all its offerings; we must always remember that when it pays, it calls the tune.

an important point which must be emphasized is that there have to be many efforts along the lines suggested, ie., the objection to taxes: naturally, if individual taxpayers decide not to pay their taxes, or not to pay the proportion that is devoted to military expenditures, this is no problem for the state; they are arrested and sentenced; in a matter of this kind, many people have to act together; if six thousand or twenty thousand taxpayers decide upon this type of action, the state is put in an awkward position, especially if the media are brought in; but to make this possible there has to be lengthy preparation: campaigns, conferences, tracts, etc.; whenever such ventures are made, they need to be organized apart from the political, financial, administrative, and legal authorities and on a purely individual basis.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:08 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 25](#)

we must recognize the need for an ideological diffusion of anarchist thinking; in the political vacuum of expediency anarchist thinking has its opportunity if it will modernize itself and draw support from existing embryonic groups such as the ecologists [yet the many ngo's are caught in the hierarchical trap themselves, in organization and solutions]; no society is possible among people who compete for power or who covet and find themselves coveting the same thing; an ideal anarchist society [in the strict definition of no organization, no hierarchy, and no authorities] can never be achieved; yet we have to remember that all power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely; this has been the experience of all millenarians and "cities of God," etc.; what seems just and possible is the creation of new institutions from the grass-roots level; the people can set up proper institutions [communitarian; direct democracy] which will in fact replace the authorities and powers that have to be destroyed; these are never to function in an authoritarian and hierarchical way but in a strictly democratic manner, and they would lead to federations, the federal bond being the only national bond [federated municipalities].

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:05 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 26](#)

we must believe in the possibility of creating a new social model; the only thing is that we now have to begin afresh; the former attempts to achieve common rights, the unions, the labor halls, decentralization, the federative system, all are gone; the perverse use that has been made of them has destroyed them; the matter is all the more urgent because all our political forms are exhausted and practically nonexistent; our parliamentary and electoral system and our political parties are just as futile as dictatorships are intolerable - nothing is left; and this nothing is increasingly aggressive, totalitarian, and omnipresent - our experience today is the strange one of empty political institutions in which no one has any confidence any more, of a system of government which functions only in the interests of a political class, and at the same time of the almost infinite growth of power, authority, and social control which makes any one of our democracies a more authoritarian mechanism than the Napoleonic state.

this is the result of techniques; we cannot speak of a technocracy, for technicians are not formally in charge; nevertheless, all the power of government derives from techniques, and behind the scenes technicians provide the inspiration and make things possible - there is no point here in discussing what everybody knows, namely, the growth of the state, of bureaucracy, of propaganda (disguised under the name of publicity or information), of conformity, of an express policy of making us all producers and consumers, etc.; to this development there is strictly no reply; no one even puts questions; the churches have once again betrayed their mission, the political parties play outdated games - it is in these circumstances that anarchy is the only serious challenge, as the only means of achieving awareness, as the first active step; the more the power of the state and bureaucracy grows, the more the affirmation of anarchy is necessary as the sole and last defense of the individual, that is, of humanity - at the beginning of the 21st century, our giving up the illusion of control and paradoxically shouldering the burdens of responsibility and ambiguity, may be the beginning of our moral redemption and creative liberation [our challenge now is to follow the Word's example, who became the Lord God, Jesus the Christ, by giving up power, but not giving up responsibility]. -- [Notes 23-26] [based on Jacques Ellul, author "Anarchy from a Christian Standpoint" - Anarchist Library, with [inserts]]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:01 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 27](#)

the government plays by two rules: 1. you have to play by *their* rules 2. you *have* to play !! -- IT IS TIME TO CHANGE THE RULES !! -- alternative currencies not only implies means of exchange but also currency of thought and action !! - a society where deep meaning has no relation to deep pockets - in a virtuous cycle the more we learn the more we will be able to extrapolate, hypothesize and understand - multi-disciplinary; our ability to study, etc.; formed in my/our perspective; the question of consciousness; ignorance limits the imagination (the possible seems impossible) - our own common sense; heightened senses; do our interests, knowledge, heighten or lower our sensibilities (passive or active) ?? - people tend to place conclusions in other people's remarks instead of drawing conclusions from the remarks instead; we have to seek common_meaning; the sense of self-ownership, community-self -- there is an uneasy fit between the individual mind and the society in which it is embedded; small and large scale phenomena; confronting the self; introspection; what are our analytical techniques, ie., religion ??

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:59 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 28](#)

"we've got what it takes to take what you've got" [IRS, Revenue Canada] -- corporations = absentee landlords; the filthy rich vs. the filthy poor; the hypocrisy of "social investing", finding the corporations responsible place in society, within the continuing context of a free-market economy; economic values vs. human values; we cannot reverence God if we can't reverence each other -- crimes against humanity; the historical debt; we may be through with the past but the past isn't through with us, the future will demand a reckoning - we have to disinvest from the SAGE construct; EXPATRIATION; the goal is not accommodation but disestablishment vs. sacrificing others to yourself (ourselves; personal gain at the expense of

others; sin); corporate slavery; material goods; everything is connected to everything -- low-tech solution; whose responsibility is it (to make change, changes, etc.) ?? -- NSA = No Such Agency; law enforcement, the various agencies, etc., part of the team where you play your position; patriots for, and in defence of, the American cause; SAGE operons, yet most acting in good faith; caught within the oppression -- we never had control, that's the illusion, the deception !!

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:56 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Unlocking The Authority From Within: Open_Notes 29](#)

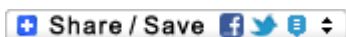
man gets in the way of God; faith = common -- the journey underground; rebels: a person who resists authority and control; a person who changes his mind; a radical disordering of the senses, to see things differently, to think differently, and to act in correspondence to this change of thought -- history is changed by dissent; civilization harbors rebels, those who struggle for possession of the future against conformist authority; taboos are broken, forbidden knowledge is received; the fringes of society gives us visionaries; rebels reject censorship and they open doors to new perceptions; the common thread is defiance vs. the narrow-minded face of rigidity - social rebellion; individual autonomy and freedom vs. hierarchies that corrupt - counterculture rebels; society's shadow; revolution is thought carried into action - Adam and Eve the first example of defiance of authority [a story of misdirected rebellion as pure anarchy was offered them, all possibilities yet they comprehended not; God does not represent authority, God represents participation, equality, service, love]; taboos once broken will forever change things; the *meek* [humility, strength of character, community] shall inherit [sybiosis with] the earth vs. unaligned individuals, the corporate; Jesus *is* a revolutionary and social outsider (virtue, reason, impulse vs. man's control) - pure consumption of goods is not enough; not a redesign of government but a repudiation in order to understand and commune, to achieve the freedom of the dream. -- [based on documentary "Rebels: The Journey Underground", with [inserts]]

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:52 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Mammon or Messiah](#)

Mammon or Messiah Book 1 (full text) excerpts:
<http://caimbhriainmyrddin.blogspot.com/>

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:50 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

[State of Our World: Open_Notes 1](#)

global housekeeping; conscious responsibility for the health of our planet vs. globalization gone wrong: global misery, the elite in their bastions, anarchic parts of the world written off as no-go zones, poor regions enslaved, environmentally devastated regions hungry and thirsty; all this is happening now !! - the splitting of society [money as weapon; weaponized; global genocide in the name of corporate profit; democracy = corporate fascism, the apex of self-interest (path away from God), evil incarnate, the bottomless pit !!]

an intermediate term goal vs. a corporate sponsored world domination; the WTO is part of the global economic architecture 1973-1990s; part of the attempt to continue at an accelerated pace neo-liberalism, efficiency gains, rising productivity, trickle-down-benefits; considered inevitable; corporate sponsored globalization - WTO attempt to implement the MAI/capital liberalization - the Asian economic crisis summer 1997, escalated summer 1998; primarily caused by the changes in the global economy that allowed a vast pool of global wealth to wander the globe unfettered, settle and then leave at a moments notice; nothing has changed as a result of the crisis; the neo-liberalizers have resisted any changes, the

prominent players [the SAGE], they continue to run the show, ie., Rubin, Greenspan & c., but internal critics, prominent economists are increasingly vocal; the world's economy is being held hostage to speculative wealth.

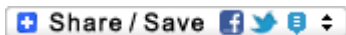
 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:08 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[State of Our World: Open_Notes 2](#)

immediate: the WTO must be put on hold - short term: a more effective system of macro-global stabilization (the global-growth rates of the neo-liberal period is 1/2 the growth-rate of the Bretton Woods period - intermediate term goals: we have to insist on changes that diminish global inequality; requires no longer having trade according to free-market prices (distributes the benefits to the better-off economies); coordinated and set in "new" policies other than free-market, the terms of trade must be put at the top of the agenda with the NGO's, this includes international investment (free-market interest rates) -- we have focused on labor-environmental standards and this is problematic (the race to the bottom; the lowest common denominator); the new pretext for the advanced economies to disadvantage a 3rd world drive into the 1st world economies, the use of standards; there are no easy answers, there are many definitions of "standards" ie., wages, labor rights, safety, on-and-on; a new means of protectionism -- the answer is peasant agricultural producers (2-3B people) being replace by modern chemical agriculture (a human disaster and a long-term environmental disaster); the social cost is not being counted and it must in order for this change to be stopped; this is not an efficiency gain !! - 3rd world peasants must be allowed to be self-sufficient: this must be an important priority for the NGO's, a new movement/long-run goal: we must replace the economics of competition-greed with equitable-cooperation, capitalism with socialism !!

we are better situated now to achieve this long-run goal vs. the 1970s effort of national governments; NGOs, federations of labor, environmental organizations, outraged citizens (increased education) these new constituencies, a grand-coalition (all sorts of people for all sorts of reasons) vs. the powers-that-be; a new sort of process, a conscious creation to nourish, cherish and build from; this new approach is our asset; we must address demands to the pressing needs, and avoid fractionalization. -- [Notes 1,2] [NPR, Alternative Radio, economist Robin Henell, "Beyond Seattle, What Is To Be Done?", Dec.99 address; author "Panic Rules", Z-magazine contributor, NPR Broadcast Jan.22.00, [with inserts]]

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:04 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

[Mammon or Messiah research](#)

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

[State of Our World: Open_Notes 3](#)

the corporate packaging of the public mind; the deep pockets to express themselves - corporate control of the media; the true levers of contemporary power - culture inc., information inequality -- 1870-80s the big eastern banks, milling companies, railroads were the malfactors of society, easily identified leading to the populist movement - 1900s giant conglomerates were plainly visible - US Steel Corporation, 1901 - 1890 Sherman Anti-Trust Law, substantial opposition / Clayton Anti-Trust Act, post-WWI opposition; 1930's New Deal / WWII -- in recent years there has been a deflection of public focus vs. the business corporation; the new menace is big government; this is a fantastic shift in malefactors - the early opposition was to protect the consumer against shoddy, dangerous goods, and working conditions -- now we have a

new kind of factory, a factory of the mind [messages and images], producing the diet of the mind [in turn creating new working conditions] - entertainment, radio, TV, shopping malls; but where is the opposition to the goods that enter into our minds, our conditioning ??

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[State of Our World: Open_Notes 4](#)

Time-Warner-CNN, Disney-ABC-Capital Cities, etc., these massive media mergers, where is the indignation, the opposition ?? Westinghouse-CBS, GE-RCA-NBC, Murdock-FOX, Southwestern Bell-Pacific Telesys, etc., the re-combination of what had been a separate media; Microsoft buying the world's art heritage, exclusive leases of photo's, paintings, etc. - the Telecommunications Bill structuring the future - no more controls - open to the "free market," the stamping ground of the "large scale" where "more competition" is the excuse released into the realm of the gullible public - concentrated wealth means concentration of power !! WE ARE TALKING ABOUT OUR MINDS, OUR OUTLOOKS, OUR CONSCIOUSNESS !!

our outlooks are coming less-and-less from our families, from our schools -- what we are seeing is the corporate control of the message and image "form" of society - chain newspapers, TV stations, publishers [the chaining, locking, restraining of the public mind]; owners claim separate editors, producers on each newspaper, station, have complete autonomy [this is in a very limited sense; autonomy within extremely tight boundaries], they all adhere to the system, they all obey the quarterly returns, the balance sheet as criterion - *institutionalized censorship* - safe programming, "crime, sports, weather" - serious issues are avoided ie., the standard of living, the level of income and inequality, etc., the full emphasis, the need to do something is missing - the arousal of the population, from their *image-coma* would destabilized this information-society [yet we do not have information] - media at the beck-and-call of the corporate fraternity.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:57 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[State of Our World: Open_Notes 5](#)

our culture is being auctioned off, sold - the radio spectrum has been auctioned for 10B\$, a fraction of its worth; the patrimony of the population is being sold - it is now a *private holding* - the message-image symbolic environment: theme parks, shopping malls [they are all really the same; part of the chain(s)]; an homogenized atmosphere, limiting, stunting, the basic diet, menu, of what society has to offer; this is what gets reinforced; money-starved educational institutions bending to corporate deals - Mephistopheles enters [making a deal with the devil; Faust selling his soul for knowledge and power], advertising is increasingly reinforced throughout the social order - opposition results in corporate claims of first amendment rights [accepted by the courts] - the first amendment was for our defense against incursions into our expressions of free speech, but now money determines how free we are and what rights we have.

there have been many occasions over our history when many persons, groups have been able to oppose, ie., 1880-1900s populists, 1920s progressives, they had limited success but they had an input - nothing will succeed without an organized opposition - in the end it is us, our willingness to recognize that it is human beings that count, nothing else - don't rely on the corporations, [their promises, their corporate good will], rely on yourself, and those around you; demand accountability - many are locked into the corporate structure, we must provide an outlet to release these systemic captives; the pressure is building in our society, social upheaval is possible; concerns, doubts are being stirred; there is a silent massacre of our peoples hopes and dreams, of their future. -- [Notes 3-5] [NPR, Alternative Radio, professor-author Herbert Schiller, Jun.24.00; d. Jan.2000, author "Culture, Inc." and many other titles]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:55 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

State of Our World: Open_Notes 6

"how the war is spun" is the real cause of victory !! - mercenary armies of the PR Industry - manipulation of opinion by TNCs - PR consultants: planning and strategy - entering the stream of public discourse [flooding] - PR-Advertising Industry 10B\$/yr in the U.S. -- politics-PR-corporate power merged: corporate propaganda protecting corporate power from democracy !! -- understanding the mechanisms and motives of the group mind; engineering consent; an invisible government manipulating the public, democracy - pulling the wires that control the public mind, smoothing democracy, by a small elite -- Edward Bernays, c. WWI-1940s, the father of modern PR [nephew of Sigmund Freud, used Freudian insights into human behavior] -- PR managed perceptions to encourage participation and increase business - symbiotic complicity, PR-media; PR industry vnr's [video news release] shown every night on national news bdcst's; pre-written press releases published every day in np's - this is not journalism, news, this is *marketing madness*, dictating the content of the news we receive, consistent and steady deception !!

private, back door route of money, censorship vs. the public front door - the demise of journalism, a pre-authored media, early-90s 20 TNCs controlling 50% of everything we see and hear, and now almost 100% due to recent mergers - the ideals of journalism lost to the profits of propaganda - the political arm of PR; issues are now managed; triad team: 1. lobbyist 2. grass-root organizing [astro-turf organizer], orchestrated by Fortune 500 corporations [letters to the editor, letters to congress, phone calls, etc.] 3. public servants; media, publicity events; front groups - the public theatre, the theatre of the absurd, the *art of lying* par excellence - legitimate citizen campaigns overwhelmed by corporate funded opposition !! -- [NPR, Alternative Radio, "The PR Industry", talk by the Center for Media and Democracy, publisher of "PR Watch", Jul.22.00]



Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:47 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

State of Our World: Open_Notes 7

we have to challenge the monopoly of the Republican and Democratic parties; we need a major progressive political movement in this country; willpower to show ourselves that we can succeed is the first step vs. corporate government -- a rising tide lifts all boats, but what we see today is a rising tide lifting all yachts - wealth [top 1% = bottom 90%] -- social infrastructure is crumbling within an expanding economy of rising profits; imagine what would happen in a recession or depression -- one step towards unionization and the company heads for the border; a new level of greed and power, and a grotesque distortion of a nation's promise; corporate costs being externalized upon society, making obscene profits and multi-million dollar executive salaries possible -- corporate speech [media monopolies] reaching millions, individual free-speech effectively censored, no reporting of citizen groups, etc. -- capitol hill "withering heights."

signing the dotted line is not a contractual meeting of the minds, it is a done deal in favor of the seller, no choice left, we accept it, we are corporate; fine-print contracts are binding arbitration's, we sign away our legal right to the courts if a dispute arises, if a damage occurs, corporate rights reign supreme - democracy restricted, constricted -- growing up corporate means we don't know what we own as a society, ie., the public airways, 1/3 of America [the public lands], our \$4T pension pool [managed by the corporate, worker control is zero] - we own but do not control - taxpayer assets [incl. research developments given away, ie., the National Institute of Health] - our common gene pool being expropriated for enormous profit; the WTO and NAFTA rigged to make free-trade supreme, all other issues subordinate to trade, incl. human rights, food safety, environmental concerns, etc. - a rising tide subordinating our local, regional, and national rights. -- [NPR, Alternative Radio, consumer activist Ralph Nader, May.06.00]

scripted speeches, scripted conventions are no indication of a candidates character, ability; being a performer, reading a speech by teleprompter, written by a professional speech-writer makes a candidate an artificial, manufactured product NOT a representation of America's political-social aspirations - the resultant media analysis of the artificial-superficial speech results in superimposition of the script on the candidate [the political mask], performance [reading ability, emotions, mannerisms] equated with the scripted values, issues, policies [the art of political warfare; the posture], the manufactured image.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:43 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[State of Our World: Open_Notes 8](#)

a "national happiness index" is needed for America - everything is not ok when the economy is good -- "Redefining Progress" NGO -- Herbert Hoover idea [index], attempted resurrection by Mondale in the 1970s -- the social health of the nation, ie., unemployment, suicide, etc.; social health trend line different from the GDP trend line - social health declining or remaining stagnate -- economic indicators do not measure the quality of life, ie., health care coverage, housing, child poverty, hunger, wages, etc., vs. human material wellbeing, quality of health care, consumer items, etc.; material indicators of wellbeing -- money does not necessarily buy you happiness -- cultural indicators, crime rates falling, welfare case loads falling, smoking rates falling, etc. -- moral issue indicators, teenage pregnancy, divorce, etc. -- we must look beyond economic and business indicators; what is it important for us to measure ??

what falls within the purview of public policy, what indicator indices ?? - a sense of community is necessary for happiness -- a country needs more than just money -- we need to invest in our neighbors, engagement, trust, civility, sense of commitment, etc. -- absolute measures, relative measures, a satisfaction index -- we must differentiate between intrinsic and extrinsic happiness - a spiritual void exists in America -- a person's resources for happiness is a determinant -- inclusive family, volunteerism leads not just to happiness but joy -- base line for comparison importance; measures, etc., methodology, scenarios; is there a consensus amongst people about what makes them happy ?? - what indicators can capture social health ?? -- Jeremy Bentham (early 1800s) numerical index, an early attempt to measure happiness -- material needs must be fulfilled before spiritual, spatial needs, etc., and that is an indicator itself -- a richer political discourse is needed -- an ideal form must be approached (Plato), ie., happiness, that is the measure -- life was nasty, brutal and short for millennia - life is about *living*, what is "progress" ?? ** [not progress, regress, but an ingress, an entering into community] ** -- [NPR, Fordham Institute, Cato Institute, Jun.04.00, with [inserts]]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:38 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[State of Our World: Open_Notes 9](#)

media representations of women - the mixed messages vs. womanhood -- huge media sums spent to project a certain corporate image of women; containment - feminists stereotyped as fanatics, lesbians - the media has declared a post-feminist era -- feminism and femininity are not opposed -- the media is a double-edged sword for feminism; women's issues are covered yet feminism is still demonized; media representation of the "desirable woman" prevails; Vogue, Glamour, etc., both antagonize the mind and stroke desire(s) -- the "market of women", niche marketing (Segmented by age, tapping into rebellion) primary for the corporate; rebellion, expectations raised with the unforeseen outcome of increasing feminism (women matter economically, politically, etc.) - a political discourse (civil rights, Peace Corps, Equal Rights Amendment) opened up; women no longer empty vessels; gender divisions dissolved: 1960s "Beatlemania" (long hair; sexual desire); ABC seeks a younger woman audience, ie., Bewitched (Samantha saves the day; breaks out of the corseted life) an outlet for female desire, restlessness -- seeking to contain restlessness also feeds it -- the media claims to be a "mirror of society" only; the media is really a funhouse mirror, distortion repeated over-and-over, certain issues magnified, cultivated over time.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:34 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

State of Our World: Open Notes 10

the media tells us who and what is important - the media is an important part of peer culture - attitudes and opinions shaped; situations remote to most people moulded and accepted, ie., international events, affairs -- a narrow corporate ideal of the "woman image", ie., Barbie (instilling an image in the young); Disney "babes", ie., Ariel, [the Ariel Syndrome] old-fat-madeup Sea Witch grants Ariel legs in exchange for her voice (women must whisper; women talk too much; self-esteem, censorship) in order to marry her love -- the art of catching a man: makeup; a non-fat, troubled food relationship; a very narrow corporate ideal is internalized by most young women; 33-23-33 the average measurements of models; 36-18-33 the measurements of Barbie; the average woman is 5'4", 132lbs., the average model is 5'9", 110lbs., only 05% of women can have these bodies - the artificial is deemed the ideal !! -- the media glamorizes sexual encounters; the governing sensual aspect of our lives; sexual relationships presented as a contest with a reward; sexual references in sitcoms, movies, etc., show young women who get rewarded and who does not, ie., Ali McBeal - the media-entertainment environment also includes much violence against women, victimization -- the masquerade of femininity; the gender ideology of America; women who say "no" are ridiculed, while the women who match the ideal are rewarded financially; the corporate "super-woman icon".

NIKE "Just Do It" (on the backs of Indonesian workers, mostly women) [consider that NIKE "swoosh" a whip-mark of the back of a slave] -- women must become aware of the ads that insult and demean women; we must teach others; opposing parties should be encouraged (opposed to the pose) - the media are *constructions*, they are made by someone - the word "feminism" must be reclaimed; feminism(s) are many, women must "talk back", women must resist -- male objectification is rising, males must resist vs. GI Joe, Coke ads, etc., the *media construction of gender* must be recognized and resisted !! -- [Notes 9,10] [NPR, Alternative Radio, feminist-professor of Media Studies, Univ. of Michigan, Susan Douglas, "Media Representations of Women", Aug.05.00, with [insert]]

 Share / Save

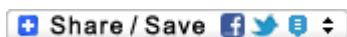
Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:22 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

State of Our World: Open Notes 11

the collapse of public confidence and hope in our abilities - a loss-collapse of the power of workers, citizens; the actualization of the strike and vote lost, organizational power [ie., employers depend on workers] - the regulatory framework now governed by the corporate; globalization has punctured the analysis that society has used in the past, popular power has been undermined !! -- capital mobility, heightened trade [these two dimensions of globalization braided together into an argument] against the labor movement, the strike power; world competition threat -- citizen power over the nation state also threatened [capital disinvestment threat] by the corporate vs. regulations [the neo-liberal argument] -- is this argument accurate ?? - structural, institutional power and actualization of that power is a difficult understanding vs. traditions, deference, laws - solidarity over divisions necessary, networks of communication, unified actions - structural leverage dependent on sacrifice [the strike].

working to make people recognize they have power is a struggle; overcoming the lack of unity, the divisions [nourished by employers; one group played against another]; the threat of replacement; the picket is a form of free speech - ** we must develop community alliances ** - we must develop repertoires of struggle, a world view [the employers do so also; vertical relations, oriented toward management vs. horizontal relations] -- state coercive force, to back employers against workers developed [large employer advantages built into American democracy, ie., the courts, labor law]; common law vs. strikes initiated -- democracy consists of a largely weak party system; government is not tightly integrated; penetration by monied, business interests; the 2-party system over time suppressed dissent; building majorities [building big-tent coalitions] cannot survive contentious issues in a conflict ridden society.

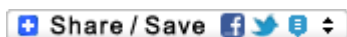
 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:44 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

State of Our World: Open Notes 12

labor was weak in America until the 1930s - the collapse [social, government] led to mass labor, unemployed defiance - labor won legal rights for the first time [representation, protection for unions, income protection programs] - a "new compact" but with conditions vs. labor strategies [legal contracts; labor relation boards; employers collected the dues making labor responsible to business as well as their members] - much of the old repertoires of labor made illegal [boycotts, sympathy strikes, sit-down strikes (commandeering the plant, holding hostage the capital equipment of the plant)]; limitations on the power of workers, by law, government, has increased until now -- yet today lean production has actually increased the power of labor; capital is dependent on labor - an ideological campaign is being waged against this understanding, a "no interference" policy [neo-laissez faire] - union-busting has been a regular policy of corporations since the 1970s [back to the pre-1930s Pinkerton union-busting army], bowing to growing competitive pressures [two-tier contracts introduced vs. solidarity; productivity partnerships (vertical relationships)] - heightened exit threats, contracting out/in, welfare state cut-backs [UI, welfare, food-stamps, medicaid] threat; corporate advantage in maneuvering now exists - people are crippled by the old repertoires, the rules accepted by the internal oligarchies.

small-scale, new repertoires are now emerging, new strategies, solidarity reconstruction; extended chains of production increase worker control, coordinating strikes across plants, nations -- preparations for strikes (community relations), increasing minority participation, regional strikes, are building solidarity [worker-community alliances], wide-spread public apathy targeted [ie., WTO protests], democratic accountability, and the lack of the same, brought to the forefront -- formal organizational ties between unions in different countries being cultivated; new conditions being forged; the future is partly shaped by the unpredictable; domination has to be challenged !! -- [Notes 11,12] [NPR, Alternative Radio, "Labor in a Globalized Economy", author-professor Francis Fox Piven, Sep.02.00]



Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:38 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

State of Our World: Open Notes 13

human suffering, political upheaval, and ecological destruction is looming within the threat global warming - in the last 10 years science, in a wonderful display of the scientific method, has removed all doubt against global warming; it is FACT - the basic parameters of the earth's biology and physics has been changed by man - the early signs of warming [we are about 25% of the way into the warming] are here: 1. rainfall and severe storms are increasing; a 20% change in a few decades [increased energy introduced into a system and expressed] 2. the very progress of the seasons has begun to change; on average spring arrives seven days sooner and winter arrives four days later in the northern hemisphere; vegetation zones moving 3. such shifts in climate and weather are triggering even more dangerous effects, ie., polar ice thickness decreasing; 40% in the last two decades; salinity in the oceans changed as a result; polar currents to the tropics being changed, the heat exchange; sea levels rising, warm water occupies more space than cold; population shifts, environmental refugees threatening.

the 1990s economic boom, an incantation, the enchantment [growth; more is better] of global commerce vs. alternatives, ie., reduction in the use of fossil fuels; spending less [standard of living]; our behavior, attitudes must change, ie., politics is what it is, etc. -- ["wealth-authority" must be challenged, made worthless, non-existent (nothing matters but money)]; we must wake up as the perils around us increase !! -- we must take a different path vs. the human nature argument (nourished and nurtured by the corporate)) - human nature is not one dimensional, more is not better [a world drained of its wonder, its relationship; impoverished]; it is *only us* out here [not someone else out there; we are the someone else]; the glory of God [the story of Job; God tours the universe, His creation - where were you when I did all this? - man is but a moment, yet we commit crimes against the future; we *preempt* the lives of our children; we commit crimes against the past, we are stewards, heirs of the past and future] -- Global Warming is the preeminent challenge of our day; massive damage looming - resistance to the conventional wisdom and pattern must increase, ie., better economics, applied wisdom [protests, simple living, withdrawal], etc., economic health vs. environmental health is *madness*, [only God can/will provide the HEALING] !! -- *our role in consumption* must cease [consumerism as religion] or we will; [we are consuming, sacrificing ourselves, our children on the false altar]; the question is not "who wants to be a millionaire?" but "who wants to

be a human being?" -- [based on NPR, Alternative Radio, "Consumerism and Global Warming", Phil McKibben, author "Hope: Human and Wild" and "The End of Nature", Sep.09.00, [with inserts]]

 Share / Save

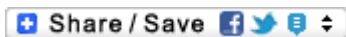
Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:34 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[State of Our World: Open_Notes 14](#)

"the evil of two lessers" [Republicans, Democrats] - America must vote their hopes NOT their fears -- the invisible and ignored homeless must be made visible -- [corporate welfare is the ultimate blight on our landscape] -- merchants initially opposed the American revolution, they opposed anti-slavery, they opposed women/children (workers) rights, the agrarian reform movement [they only had their head, heart, feet; walking from farm to farm, person to person]; the industrial worker unions, the environmental movement vs. accumulated violence -- the corporate stand in the way of our basic human rights !! - the US is a republic run as a plutocracy NOT as a democracy !! - CEO's today claim [they don't earn] 416x an entry level worker, 1M\$+/mo, 40-50T\$/day; social values undermined [CEO's 12x in 1940, 40x in 1980] -- the White House is a corporate prison [golden hand-cuffs] !! - corporate power and abuse is the *singular issue* in politics today !! - deconcentration of corporate power is absolutely and fundamentally necessary for a free social environment; we have to regain and keep our right to voice, to speak !!

GREED is defined as INFINITY by the corporate !! [AGAPE LOVE is defined as ETERNITY by the God Family] -- our government kneels before corporate power; complex legal privileges, immunities given; the top 01% has built enormous wealth; DEMOCRACY SURRENDERED = 20% child poverty, 25% pre-school child poverty; workers making less money than 25 years ago; the richest 400 families each increased their wealth 1.2M\$/day during the last 04 years; the top 01% are equal in wealth to the bottom 95% of Americans; 47M workers making less than 10\$ hour, 1/2 minimum wage of 05\$/hr; the US has some of the worst, most draconian laws against trade unions; public and corporate prisons increasing at an alarming rate; the US is 37th in the world in health care [universal health care anathema to the corporate; 47M Americans without any health care] -- solutions include: 1. public financing of public elections NOT the private financing of private campaigns; 2. we must unleash the power of trade unionism, the freedom of association vs. corporate power [ie., Taft-Hartly]; 3. we must increase legal means, force vs. corporate crime, immunity [our legal rights suppressed due to corporate wealth, power of litigation]; 4. a self-empowering *civic culture* must be developed; 5. a new mainstream progressive politics must be developed -- the inheritance of our children is at risk !!

the pursuit of justice is part of our pursuit of happiness - swallowing injustice [BITTER] is unAmerican - WE MUST PERFORM OUR CIVIC DUTIES !! vs. corporate imposition(s); the corporate is planning, imposing *our* future !! - "everything is for sale" is the corporate mantra - citizens "up against the odds" is an American tradition; a deeper and stronger democracy will produce a deeper and stronger economy vs. domination by fewer and fewer corporations; the corporate charter must be a mechanism for corporate responsibility as it was in the last century - a perpetuation of the [evil] systemic existent must be opposed !! -- [NPR, Alternative Radio, Ralph Nader, "Towards A Green White House", Sep.23.00, with [inserts]]

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:23 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[State of Our World: Open_Notes 15](#)

the distorted lens of corporate media -- our children served up to these corporations - children's programming teamed up with McDonald's, Wendy's, etc., toys with their damaging food -- "playtime, snack time, tot time" marketing strategies combining non-profits (ie., PBS) with for-profit companies -- these are very serious issues -- PBS bowing to corporate pressures vs. underwriters (ie., unions, gay groups, environmental groups, etc.), in programming choices -- independent media are our only hope !! [the Internet is a corporate medium (a private corporate backbone), privatization of which is a threat to open, free, alternative, independent media; we must take back what is ours, we must protect what is ours] - the media giants are the lens through which we see the world, the "mainstream" view, the corporate portal -- the solution is ** all of us **, democracy from the bottom-up vs. manufactured consent !! -- true media is about challenging those in power

not about continually lauding them !! - we must see beyond the corporate media claim of analysis not advocacy, we must see through another lens !! [HUMILITY is the lens of God's truth !!] -- [based on NPR, Alternative Radio, Amy Goodman, "Democracy Now", Dec.09.00, with [inserts]]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:15 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[State of Our World: Open_Notes 16](#)

when interest rates go down, money becomes cheaper and stocks become attractive -- stock price is mostly disconnected from actual company value in the short-term; companies benefit only if they wish to sell more stock when prices are high for capital inflow -- 70-80% of daily volume is institutional trading; earnings growth over the long term drive stock prices; earnings have increased 56-fold in the past 50 years [on avg. earned 11% annually: S&P500], the market has increased 58-fold; stock prices fluctuate in the short-term -- rules-of-thumb are arbitrary; there are many strategies to buying-selling; long-term or short-term profit taking -- the stock market is almost purely emotion for many [the emmonic (emotion/money)] vs. studying companies [most companies get through difficulties; most take time to develop] - your *relationship* to stocks needs consideration; a long-term net-buyer of stocks [long-term holdings] perspective survives fluctuations, buying when prices are low; gradually you pull back from stock investments approaching retirement [time-frame, goals, differ for each individual] to avoid being forced to cash-in when prices are low -- short-term perspectives, the mentality, causes volatility in the market [day-traders; short-term profit taking; the gamble; options trading, etc.].

information, studying is most important - SEC rule changes [Fair Disclosure] has made investment information open to all [sorting insight from the noise is the trick, the skill needed, the *discernment*] -- "greedy" or "clever" is the question !! -- direct stock purchase plans [dividend reinvestment] is the best for minimum investments, ie., 100\$ per month, etc., look for no fee, no load funds; take a long-term perspective, benefits compounding over time building on the strength of US companies, ie., index funds [broad diversification; low-cost, average 1.6 basis-points, as opposed to 20 basis-points for some investment strategies] - long-term stock appreciation depends on corporate profits. -- [NPR, All Things Considered, "The Financial Markets", interview The Motley Fool, Jan.03.01, with [inserts]]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:10 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[State of Our World: Open_Notes 17](#)

we have to turn our lights on if we are to see where we are headed in this darkened world [God is light; it is His light that we need (our headlights)] -- GNP, our Grosser National Product, nothing is more gross than environmental destruction on a massive scale that makes the GNP possible - everyone knows there are limits on this growth but no one has the answer; a *cost* -benefit analysis of growth is necessary !! - a market economy does not tell us the truth; massive subsidies are employed [corporate welfare], ie., energy costs, transportation, etc. -- 1. the corporate structure has the rights of a person but there was *no conscience* put into that person; legal *responsibility* to society and the environment must be mandated [corporatus (to make into a body; consciousness): Corporatio/Communitas/Christianitas: private community, public community, fellowship community, the Family of God: evil/human/Holy SPIRIT CONSCIENCE/ entitas; entity (being, existence)] 2. massive waste must be avoided; performance standards, criteria must be established 3. we must enter an era of ** restoration ** - we must *think new*, we must support and extend that support for new possibilities - we must rebuild our life-support system that we are destroying; ** human symbiosis is needed ** -- "back to the source" waste management [symbiotic waste as food], ie., Sony TV back to Sony, GM car back to GM, etc., corporate responsibility for its lasting manufacturing impact -- opportunities for the restoration of our 3-billion year-old life-systemic are endless !! -- [based on NPR, Alternative Radio, David Brower, environmentalist, d. Nov.05.00 at 88 years, founder of Earth Island Institute; "Visions of the Environmental Movement", Jan.13.01, [with inserts]]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:06 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

State of Our World: Open_Notes 18

the pervasive contamination of humanity and the environment - endocrine disruptor's, chemical contamination of our bodies - legacy of contamination being passed on to our children ie., breast feeding, placenta cross-over -- 1940s reports about DDT contamination, 1962 Rachel Carson "Silent Spring" warning - toxic chemicals = cancer - 1996 "Our Stolen Future", what are the consequences?, a continuance of "Silent Spring" - we have to move our thinking beyond cancer and embrace new concepts ie., the endocrine disruption concerns, etc. - these are unifying themes beyond cancer (still a major concern, but not the only one) -- so-called "normal" background levels must be a new focus; chemical messengers tricking (mimicry) the messages (wrong instructions; hormones), not the genome itself (as in mutations) - pre-natal life is most vulnerable; timing is just as important as the dose (cancer, deformities, gender development, etc.), ** disrupted development **.

many plastics are biologically active, they leach contaminants, ie., polycarbonates (baby bottles, can linings, etc.) leeches Phenol A (brain function harm); inert chemicals used with pesticides are estrogenic (salmon fry development arrested; male sea otter contamination) -- learning disabilities, attention deficit linked to organic pollutants -- a global phase-out must be implemented; DDT is still being used around the world; these chemicals are being deposited all over the earth, especially the arctic -- fertility, immune function in humans and animals is in direct threat -- chemical-by-chemical study and censure is impossible -- metabolites used against insects ie., juvenile hormone mimics are not regulated; they are a direct threat to humanity (all invertebrates) - pesticides in our diet are also a direct threat -- classes of chemicals must be banned collectively; precautionary principle (if you suspect something is bad, do not use it; corporate proof requires dead bodies) -- ** human health and potential is being threatened ** -- the EPA is not protecting us; no one is in control; present protection is an illusion !! - OUR BODY CHEMISTRY IS BEING CHANGED !!

the greatest hazards are to the unborn !! - persistent hazards are carried in animal fat, ie., cheese, meats, and plastics - hormone systems are extremely complex, ie., soy formula for male infants may interfere with hormonal messages [estrogen questions] -- infant brain and behavior development impacted by a mother's contamination levels before birth and during breast feeding; mechanistic impairment; thyroid disruptor's, impairment (ADD; thyroid receptor(s) not receptive may be one cause) - the corporate "great global experiment" must cease !! -- [NPR, Alternative Radio, science journalist Diane Dumanosky, co-author "Our Stolen Future", Nov.18.00]



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:58 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

State of Our World: Open_Notes 19

a recession scenario looming in the US, a moderate correction with a longer-lasting effect on the stock market, but the economy with weather well with nothing more than a slowdown [profits lower on capital investments] in consumer spending and capital investment with some increase in unemployment -- the crisis of 1997-1999 weakened the banking systems of the emerging nations and Japan [still undergoing recession] -- Soros claims he made an analytical mistake in 1997 by not recognizing that the Federal Reserve would act, which it did, it responded, so his prophesied collapse did not happen -- Soros Fund (est. 1969) a "Hedge Fund" [manager rewarded by his performance not by the amount of money he manages; high risk, high reward] -- totally free markets [market fundamentalism] are *not* suited to making collective choices [for collective needs; public law and order]; markets cannot take care of social justice issues, they create wealth, but, allocation is a political process -- markets are unstable, financial markets are unstable by nature, they need institutions to maintain stability - this goes against the prevailing theory that markets gravitate toward equilibrium - markets attempt to predict the future, but in effect, determine the future [SAGE CONTROL] - the insistence on equilibrium is mistaken - there is a lack of international institutions in the global economy.

derivatives, a synthetic instrument [ie., an option to buy a currency; a stock index], are dangerous if there are too many people on one side of a transaction, pushing in one direction, becoming unbalanced - the unbalance must be watched, and this is not being done -- the international banking system is threatened; political instability, ie., China's repressive regime, Russia's "robber capitalism" [the battle in Russia was lost because the west did not do enough to ensure that monies got to the people and the scientists, where it was needed, the IMF failed] -- "global public goods" on a grant basis must be

implemented, ie., free public education -- the US must abandon the "war on drugs" and implement programs vs. "harm damage," ie., legal and prison reforms, needle exchange programs, social justice reforms, etc. -- the "Tobin Tax" [-Tobin, Noble Prize Economics] an excise tax on international currency speculations is a move in the right direction. -- [NPR, Talk of the Nation, interview George Soros (70), retired Chmn. Soros Fund Management, Open Society Foundation; author "Open Society, Reforming Global Capitalism"; "The Crisis of Global Capitalism", Jan.22.01, with [insert]]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:52 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monday, October 26, 2009

State of Our World: Open_Notes 20

beyond capitalism to ecological rationalism -- each society has its own way of relating to nature, its own [historical] patterns, including diseases, ie., nutritional stress; each has its own pattern of knowledge and ignorance -- military preeminence combined with economic decline leads to military intervention to ensure economic preeminence, ie., WTO, etc. -- systems theory sees a network of interacting processes; the boundaries of study disciplines must be crossed to understand -- homeostasis [why things are the way they are]; self-regulating processes at work [negative feedbacks] - a society is an eco-social mode of production and reproduction; systems of justifications produced to expand [ie., white man's burden; convert the heathen; manifest destiny; maintenance of freedom, etc.] - knowledge is now a commodity, and treated, used just as any product is !! [GOD IS KNOWLEDGE; GOSPEL AS PRODUCT] -- AN ECO-SOCIAL DISTRESS SYNDROME, a malaise permeating humanity - corporate utility, profit motives - ** abuse of rights creates conflict, not resolving the abuses ** [the corporate are to blame, not the ones rejecting them !!]

a massive waste of human capacity; the ability of each of us to think and contribute is severely limited; much of the intellectual capacity of humanity is wasted - the range to exercise ingenuity is restricted, institutionalized, copyrighted: UNDERMINED HUMANITY !! - much of what happens in our lives is a side-effect of the economy !! - natural disasters are magnified by our living situations ie., living on flood plains, on the sides of volcano's, crowded slums, etc. - "good for the economy" results in a loss of capacity to deal with disaster; inequality, the basic disempowerment of the people; constitutionalized mechanisms to nullify the rights of the people guaranteed by the same constitution - debate has been replaced by the purchase of public-relations.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:01 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

State of Our World: Open_Notes 21

wealth under capitalism = capital, private ownership, unlimited accumulation - expansion imperative built in [the economy doing fine, its only the people who are doing poorly]; rapid turnover urge, paper investment preferred; no equilibrium with nature - expansion 1. taking 2. new markets [the creation of need (or effective demand)] - with production surplus, production is used to create demand [the invention of new needs] - the commodity(-ies) penetrate all levels of life; all becomes commodity including life [basic needs; DNA, etc.]; all become marketable !! - NO RELATIONSHIP TO HUMAN WELL-BEING - the "logic" of commodity penetrates all thinking [a reduction to commodification; no value unless monied value]; the commodity form itself determines a capitalist society's relationship with nature, including self-validations [needs, wants] -- no one questions products made, whether these are socially-needed products, ie., military goods, chemicals, etc., no one questions the relationship of worker-to-product [the logic of indifference; the alienation from the job] - the marketing of labor power undermines our relationship with nature and with each other !!

maximization of profit vs. sustainability [the ecological outlook] - increase of consumption does not equal an increase in the quality of life; life sharply delimited into roles -- we must think of things in our *whole* lives [our social engagement; FAMILY of GOD]; we must redesign work to make it worker-friendly -- the costs of capitalism are externalized and then the costs are denied [the impact] - ecological diversity, the demands of nature must be emphasized, not capitalist demands

-- interfering in profit-taking, the boundaries of protests [challenging the logic of the capitalistic system] are limited by the systemic; it will protect itself even unto ecocide !! -- fragmentation of knowledge makes all this possible; [life is a right NOT a privilege to be commodified]; production is justified only if it is people-friendly, ie., agro-ecology vs. corporate-chemical farms - we must challenge the pathways of development and the logic of the systemic itself - we must mobilize [and apply] the vast collective intelligence of humanity !! -- [Notes 20,21] [NPR, Alternative Radio, ecologist Richard Levens, "The Ecology of Capitalism", Jan.27.01, [with inserts]]

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:58 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[State of Our World: Open_Notes 22](#)

a prisonized landscape, an alternative reality in the global economy - in Australia 1-2% of population aboriginal, yet 30% of the prison population [many young women in prison due to heroin] - the "racial dimension" -- the descendants of the convicts [Australian penal colony] are now proud of their history [convict pride], yet there is no attempt to understand the aboriginal plight today, the poverty and crime - deconstruction of the criminalization of poverty [most of the crimes petty theft, etc.] but not applying that to the situation today [historical amnesia] -- in America's prisons 50% are black, 17% Latino, Native Americans have the highest per capita rate; what is it like living in a society with almost 2M people in prison ?? - how did it happen ?? - how did this totalitarian regime take place ?? - the 1980s Thatcher/Reagan "War on Drugs" and the lifting of corporate regulations [the new global market], the deindustrialization of the US economy has resulted in poverty for many in the US - the homeless, the prison population, those who have given up looking for work are not counted in the unemployment numbers; as the welfare state was being dismantled in the US-UK [social disestablishment] a corresponding increase in the number of women entering prison rose, who were forced into illegal economies - the IMF-World Bank is demanding massive structural adjustments in the Third World and the impact will be enormous !!

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:55 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

[Mammon or Messiah research](#)

Monday, October 26, 2009

[State of Our World: Open_Notes 23](#)

public education is deteriorating vs. the privatization of Health Care, the privatization of Public Education and the privatization of Punishment [Prisons as industry; profits enormous] - death penalty executions are now routine in the US; Texas and Florida [the Bush brothers] have the highest number of executions and prisoners, with Affirmative Action attacked in both -- we must think of the role we all play in society, the consent we give either implicitly or complicity; we do not question what we see in the media, we assume it is all facts, the statistics - what is the role of racism here ?? - the talk is all about Race Relations, but not about structural racism, the way the cards are stacked against people of color - the racially explicit laws have been removed from the books, but equality before the law is fiction - "formal equality" does not take into account *forced poverty* [and enforced] and the implications - formal equality at the level of the law conceals much !!

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:54 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

State of Our World: Open_Notes 24

we must begin to think of history in more complex ways instead of focusing only on Black History, etc., we are all connected !! -- many women are in prison on conspiracy charges because of their partners being convicted of drug crimes, who in many instances bargain and deal sentence reductions for information, while the innocent women have no information to trade and do the maximum sentence - THESE ARE DRACONIAN LAWS, "three-strikes and you are out" is misapplied in most cases [this is EVIL !!] - we must understand these events; we must think of the future of history, where we are going, what we are able to do to change the coming history !! - we must become activists, we must become involved, we must change the ideas which surround us !! - being an activist means to be active, including mentally active, seeking answers, thinking critically, not giving your consent [without your intent]; we have a vital role(s) to play, a responsibility for the future [and for ourselves] !! -- [Notes 22-24] [NPR, Alternative Radio, black social activist, author and teacher, Univ of Calif., Santa Cruz, Angela Davis, "What will you say in 2030?" Feb.03.01]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:52 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

State of Our World: Open_Notes 25

today racism with a new lexicon takes on new forms and shapes - the critical subtext of public policy is racism - the Reagan-1980s white-backlash against racism, almost a second post-reconstruction movement [ie., charges of black racism and reverse discrimination against whites were calculated to give comfort] - playing the race card; labor issues [displaced, reflected hostility vs. the worker, not the oppressor; the same systemic use as with slavery] - maximization of profits by minimizing costs [the strategy of divide and exploit]; "Jim Crow Laws" imposed after the populist upheaval [whites joined with blacks] vs. the corporate power-structure in the south [some white leaders sold out; material incentives, differential wages]; racism is a system of privileges - inter-generational deficits of privilege - the American revolution was a battle for democracy, but for the few; the struggle survives today; THERE WAS/IS NO COMMON TABLE !! -- the use of the police to repress and contain the people is widely apparent with Blacks and Hispanics; the corruption of relationships within society [the legal system; the prison/jail-industrial complex]; the militarization of the police [SWAT] - we are caged, yet are expected not to protest !! - people of color are the wrong complexion to get the protection - prisons are an economic option in hard-hit communities, and the increasing use of prison labor by corporations is gaining acceptance - the counterattack on the few gains of the 1960-70s social-justice movement is growing [ie., demonizing welfare mothers, etc.] !! - public-policy created the crisis; the underlying systemic created the ghetto-gangs, the hatred, and then the systemic comes to police the problems, the results engendered !!

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:48 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

State of Our World: Open_Notes 26

where do we move from here; how do we move forward ?? - issues, interim strategies to rally around: 1. we must struggle hard to oppose the madness of the justice system; 2 environmental racism; 3. public education [educational tracking; segregation]; 4. a domestic "Marshall Plan" is needed; community development in all spheres - we must perfect the imperfect American union !!-- a world that is earth-centered and people-centered [GOD CENTERED]; human rights [beyond civil rights] expressed worldwide must be our focus; how dare we call ourselves civilized, how dare we call ourselves human - sustainable development; the contradictions impose too great a price !! - MLK organizing a poor peoples "Economic Bill of Rights" was the reason he was killed; MLK recognized a Human-Rights struggle not just a Civil-Rights struggle; a radical revolution of values needed; MLK challenged the very *nature* of the American nation; the edifice which produces the evil must be restructured -** we must create a new covenant for a new society ** [THE KINGDOM OF GOD]; WE MUST HAVE THE VISION, THE SENSE WHERE WE ARE GOING; ALL THE DAMAGE MUST BE REPAIRED !! -- we are the beneficiaries of this evil systemic; ingrained policies and practises must be erased; grievances must be addressed - WE MUST BE CLEAR IN OUR VISION !! - THOSE OPPRESSED MUST UNDERSTAND THE

OPPRESSION OF OTHERS !! - too few people have far, far, too much !! - reparations is a growing cry; those money-LESS, land-LESS, hope-LESS, etc., "reparation" means the REPAIR OF DAMAGE - PEOPLE MUST BE MADE WHOLE AGAIN !! - TRUE REFORM AND REVOLUTION IS MADE ON *HOPE, VISION, COURAGE* !! - we must FORCE the agenda [THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION] !! - we must recognize, and know those who have gone before us, our collective ancestry [physically and spiritually]; the vision, valor and dedication exemplified, must be remembered, honored !! -- [Notes 25,26] [based on NPR, Alternative Radio, black civil-rights activist Ron Daniels, director, The Center for Constitutional Rights, "The Color Line in the 21st Century", Feb.17.01, [with INSERTS]]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:44 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[State of Our World: Open_Notes 27](#)

the terrorists of Palestine, the Zionists, became to be called in the mid-1940s, "freedom fighters" - Menachem Begin "wanted posters" -- Arafat called by the great sage's of journalism, "chief terrorist", and now a "statesman" seeking peace -- in 1985 the Mujaheddin visited Reagan in the White House, and he claimed them "the moral equivalent of our Founding Father's" and now Bin Laden, terrorist enemy #1, a Mujaheddin -- the matter of terrorism is complicated - the terrorist of yesterday is the hero of today - the constant changing images; inconsistency evades definition, terrorism is defined in emotion not intelligence; SAGE-establishment quasi-definitions: 1. a modern barbarism 2. a form of political violence 3. a threat to western civilization 4. a menace to western moral values -- definitions presuppose an analysis, some norms of consistency; the absence of definition does not prevent globalization, and the use of violence, with no geographical limits to counter "terrorism" -- the claims of power are not only global but omniscient -- causation denied by the SAGE -- the moral revulsion is selective, official disapproval, ie., the Contras, [manufactured consent, the media] - the media aids the dominant view of terrorism - the SAGE approach excludes from consideration the terror of "friendly" governments, ie., Pinochet, etc.

1:100,000 the ratio of terrorist groups to state terrorism in violence; the dominant groups receive the attention by the media - historical terrorism overlooked, ie., the North American genocide vs. the "Indians" - only when a "Custer" is killed is the genocide brought to attention, but then only in sympathy to the perpetrators -- What is terrorism ?? - we have to define it !! Websters: terror is an intense, overpowering fear, the use terrorizing methods of governing, or resisting governments; coercive violence, violence used illegally, extra-constitutional force; motivation [just, unjust] is left out of the definition; motives differ !! -- 5 types of Terror: 1 state 2. religious, sacred 3. crime, mafia 4. pathological, sick 5. political terror, oppositional terror, private terror - these options can converge, convergence -- the SAGE-media concentrate on those who cause the highest cost to them, the political; 2nd highest cost is religious terror; crime next, next pathology - state terrorism mostly unreported, complicit causation unexamined.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:30 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[State of Our World: Open_Notes 28](#)

the political terrorist: 1. the need to be heard, a minority acts 2. mix of anger and helplessness produces an urge to strike out; retribution, justice 3. victims into terrorists; a battered people strike back; state terror breeds collective terror, ie., the "Irgun", the "Stern", holocaust, occupation causation, strike vs. external targets 5. an example is a bad thing, example spreads, ie., aircraft hijackings; state government terror are large examples 6. lack or absence of revolutionary ideology; revolutionary terror socially limited, selective -- private political terrorism increasing due to modern technology [weapons-communications], a new politics becomes possible -- political minds rooted in the past and modern times producing new realities.

prevention: 1. avoid extremes of double standards; a superpower can not promote terror in one place and condemn it in another 2. do not condone the terror of your allies 3. avoid covert operations and low-intensity warfare [breeding ground of terror and the drug trade] 4. focus on causation, help ameliorate causes 5. do not seek military solutions; political solutions

must be sought; innocent victims always result from military options 6. help reinforce and strengthen the framework of international law; enforce the United Nations, the International Code of Justice.

Jihad [to struggle] revived by American help in the 1980s vs. the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan; US\$, CIA encouragement to fight the "evil empire", Bin Laden an early recruit and recruiter [Saudi multi-millionaire], 1990 "Gulf War" US Forces in Saudi Arabia remained after victory, Bin Laden demanded removal of foreign occupation, ie., same cause as Afghanistan; the "tribal code of ethics" friend or enemy dependent on "keeping your word"; the US loyal friend has broken his word, therefore now an enemy -- covert operations have an incalculable cost. -- [Notes 27,28] [based on NPR, Alternative Radio, Ekbal Amad, d. May.99, author "Confronting Empire", discussion: "Terrorism, Theirs and Ours", Jul.29.00, with additions (SAGE)]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:15 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[State of Our World: Open Notes 29](#)

the slave history of black America is being felt by the working poor of white America today; the "property" of production, freedom lost; capitalism wearing down everyone; our rights as Americans defend us if we exercise them; consider going cold-turkey, abstinence vs. the media-entertainment complex; consider ourselves, our lives, THINK, understand who we are, what we are, and what we need; psychic pain is tough, the place where we all are going that will redefine us; we have more in common than we have separately; we have to stop our specialization, ie. far right, far left, etc., critique capitalism; the dictatorship of the few, the -ism's; democracy is not defined by capitalism, it is define by us getting together to decide what is right for us [a call to consensus]; it is impossible to not be capitalistic today [to exist in this society], we are not fools, but we have to learn from each other; there is a lot of possibility to grow in America, our rights make it possible.

consumerism is not a measure of a society, not an indicator of "are we any richer?" - the margin of profit determinant, instilled needs - we have to tell the truth, not remain silent, not tell the lie; we have to move away from society's "when we are overlooked we sue"; man made definitions, ie., ownership vs. the commons; everyone is hopeless in capitalism, all-or-nothing mentality -- people cannot imagine a concept of a world without capitalism, ownership; personal decisions are needed to withdraw from the definitions, from the practise of capitalism ** we have to reinvent ourselves vs. the feeling of helplessness -- how do we get out of the system ?? - we have to realize what part of our lives are not true, recognize our own power, we have to begin to realized we are not separate, we have to work together; our problems are the same, we have to work on our actions and not against each other -- voting is an exercise in futility, but we must get more involved, we have to belong; politics is a continual process, we have to consider this; we need more choice, we have to define what we want; we have to force the country, the corporations to give us what we want [we have to create our own, we must belong to ourselves, our community, the right *place* to be, direct democracy; NOT maintaining a place within the system seeking redress, new opportunity, the harsh reality will remain harsh if we do so]. -- [based on NPR, Talk of the Nation, author Walter Mosely, "Working On The Chain Gang", Library of Contemporary Thought, Jan.18.00, with additions]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:06 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Saturday, October 24, 2009

[Mammon or Messiah](#)

Mammon or Messiah Book 1 (full text) excerpts:

<http://caimbhriainmyrddin.blogspot.com/>

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:51 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Communitarian Alternative: Open_Notes 1

globalization - the new face of capitalism - WTO, etc., the main instruments and instigators -- Margaret Thatcher "TINA" There Is No Alternative -- Markets are managed, designed, constructed - double-edged (poor/rich) - managed internally by corporations (tyranny) - cost socialized, profit privatized, loss privatized (IMF, World Bank); the poor of the country pay out the private lenders, along with the western taxpayers who provide the free risk insurance (monies) -- 100 top TNC's (have received state monies, protection); 20 would not have survived without public money -- decisions are made by: 1 states (G7 the most equal among equals); the US the most equal among the equal; 2 institutions (of global dominance), ie. WTO; 3 corporations, financial institutions (linked TNC's); 1.5T\$ capital flow/day, mostly destructive use (money markets) vs. constructive use [90% of the international flows of money = speculation in financial assets ie., bank loans for hedge funds, stocks on margin, etc.] - the overwhelming of National-States; Congress owned - 1/4 of 1% of the population give the majority of political contributions, and they expect a return -- the giveaway of the Internet; given to commercial interests (developed over 30 years at public expense) -- private power sets the conditions in which decisions are made, no matter who is in power - global capital power has veto power over policy (a virtual Senate vs. "irrational" policy designed to help people not profits), capital withdrawn as punishment.

"liberalization" of capital and finance opens up countries to the [SAGE] Senate; these are major factors in the world since the early 1970s (neo-liberalism, minimizing the state); in the OECD, the 29 richest countries' expenditures have increased for the rich while decreasing services to the poor (this is not minimizing the state, this is changing the state) -- the world reflects the interests of its owners (through media, advertising) - customs of the ages replaced by a message of futility, superficiality, to instill a need (a philosophy of futility and helplessness) -- the more free a country is the more you have to control the public mind -- after WWI (public franchise extended; industrial democracy) the regimentation of the public mind became a priority along with manufactured crises (the red scare) - political warfare vs. the public - after WWII and the depression, a democratic surge worldwide; this led to a huge propaganda offensive; 1960s another huge democratic upsurge ("The Crisis of Democracy", Trilateral Commission book; an excess of democracy has to be controlled), led to repression and increased propaganda and the liberalization of capital flows.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:29 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Communitarian Alternative: Open_Notes 2

the "National Interest", the image that all this is done for the public good vs. the conflicting interests, the "Special Interests" (the public demands); the responsible men have to be protected from the trampling herd - the "tools and tyrants of government" (-James Madison) - the state-corporate nexus -- FTA's (Free Trade Agreement) in the National Interest - a striking example of how public attitudes and policy divert - FTA's represent TNC's, they are not agreements in the public sense - fast track legislation vs. public exposure - MAI needed fast tract; negotiated in secret for 03 yrs; early 1998 "Business Week" article; an extraordinary giveaway of power to corporations vs. democratic and human rights; grassroots action opened the MAI and it failed to pass due to public pressure (not shelved; just paused); seeping back in other ways, ie., WTO Meeting, Seattle, Nov. 1999.

public demands vs. genetically engineered foods (called collective madness, widespread hysterical fear by the corporate media) - rigid doctrinal controls threatened -- post WWII system designed: 1 UN; 2 Universal Declaration of Human Rights; 3 Bretton Wood's (stable currencies, national controls), international economic system designed (capital mobile and unrestrained) vs. sovereign-democratic, social-economic rights; early 1970s controls on financial flows eliminated, mostly speculative, only 05% now linked to actual trade; IMF (third-world cultural adjustment system) -- in 1999 the average household income has reached 1989 levels with longer hours of work -- these are human decisions, a doctrinal system [SAGE] - we must place our fate in our own hands. -- [Notes 1,2] [NPR, Alternative Radio, Noam Chomsky, "Globalization", talk given at Boston College, Oct.99, bdcst. Nov.27.99, with [inserts]]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:23 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Communitarian Alternative: Open_Notes 3

a Nation-State is a corporate entity controlled by a few for one purpose only, the generation and control of wealth - a new organization needed - sovereign communities; control in the hands of the public(-Nation) -- Government, the Presidency, White House, etc. = focal points for the public, media - SAGE interface, mask -- wisdom begins when we accept what we don't know -- governments, banks, corporations = the key emmonic [emotion/money married together; the psychosis(sys)] mechanism's; the OS - the professions, trades, jobs are the applications; we are the functions -- the SAGE control the keyboard; the media is the limited, extremely coarse display (not fine-point, crystal-clear), opaque as possible -- we need new hardware, a new OS, new applications, and open access - an overall new design !!

1990s US defense budget = x5 the combined total of all her potential enemies - the SAGE MIIM [Military Industrial Intelligence/(Legal) Matrix] -- Americanada, Israeurope Inc. are in private hands for private benefit -- the wages of war are enormous = 1T\$/yr - the lucrative business of war -- created enemies in the "national interest" of the SAGE; next is the American people; America making an enemy of her own citizens !!

"anarcom os" - how do you bring the world to a standstill ?? -- Americanada Inc.'s business *is* business -- the concept of a free society is being gradually withdrawn as it is no longer in the SAGE interest -- petition of government for redress of grievances useless - the actions of a few leading to the suspension of rights for the majority; suspension of the Constitution when it suits the powers-that-be -- this is NOT freedom, these are tactics of a Fascist-State, ie., the chaos, mayhem caused by the police tactics of breaking up large masses into manageable groups [Seattle-WTO, Nov.30-Dec.01.99]; innocent citizens caught among the violent (the police have the ability to selectively excise any violent protesters; waiting to do so, to have an excuse to suspend civil rights, is criminal) - yet, we must stand in solidarity with the Police Officers, they are our brothers and sisters, they have been used and abused, in some circumstances, by those in authority [chained by command] to, in effect, turn on the very citizens they swore to protect - the government does NOT have the right to determine when "freedom of speech" has spoken enough; their actions speak volumes - a narrow (narrowing; restricted) democracy vs. the open_commons.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:08 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Communitarian Alternative: Open_Notes 4

modernity = science and technology, disciplines of a liberalized society to post-modernism - moral relativism, situational ethics, anything goes - self-absorbed, self-referenced society - deep loss of confidence leading to neurosis, obsessing - authenticity; each human being has his own way of being human; breaking apart the structures, the older codes of behavior leading to uncertainty; lack of settlement in life; anguish; loss of direct supports in life; lack of something to lean on; depth of uncertainty increasing.

the real self, the authentic vs. the conditioned self -- limiting beliefs vs. new enlightenment - we are all a work-in-progress; accept yourself, accept mistakes, forgive yourself and learn from them -- embrace the best of who you are, empower yourself, live a balanced and fulfilled life, a whole person -- people are much more than just a physical image; all must be treated with the respect that God expects -- revitalize, nurture, feed - turn off the aging process, turn on life -- revitalizing the mind; thought/emotion/feeling - the number one killer or healer is the mind - we have been conditioned to react, not reason (to outside stimulation's); focus on the essential qualities of life not the unessential; harmonize; pause; the little things are not consequential, don't make them so; anger does not solve problems - stress must be overcome; it leads to disease, and aging (actually causes neuron degeneration and death) -- an eclectic synthesis - thought remediation -- we are not consumers, we are citizens !! - tomorrow's potentials are far greater than today's limitations.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:04 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Communitarian Alternative: Open_Notes 5

an expatriator = one who advocates expatriation, repudiation and anarcho_communitarian values -- the adonim understanding [Adon (H113; H136 Adonay, my Lord), rendered "Lord," meaning Lord as Ruler of the earth; Adonim, the plural of Adon, carries all the meaning of Adon, but to a higher degree; God is the owner and proprietor of the earth, the Lord who rules his own] - Psm 111:10 ... a good understanding have all they who obey His commandments [the communitarian constitution; the 10C]; the recognition of the kingdom and authority of God (God's many names as explanation; the confederation of tribes).

the dom_innate vs. dominate, domination, dominant [DOM, to God, the great, the greatest] - usury in control, democracy non-existent; false usurper god -- usury = usurper -- labor, community groups, ngo's must turn from their tradition of oppositional redistributionism to a new role as creators and generators of wealth - we have to stop demanding a bigger slice of the pie, and start making our own -- we have to listen, to give "ear" [expatriation and repudiation] -- Adonim = sole_proprietorship.

communitarian reform movement -- which generation is going to make the sacrifices needed, ours or our children's or our grandchildren's ?? - we must become a people of deeds, not rhetoric - our very survival is at stake !! -- 2nd American Revolution, active, non-violent EXPATRIATION from the SAGE construct; a reconstruction of constitutional values; federated communities; sovereign individuals -- the begettall and rebirth of the American ideal, a revived and revised American System, the public-Nation -- a recognition needed before the reckoning can begin, a "recognition gospel".

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:55 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Communitarian Alternative: Open_Notes 6

America (and by extension Canada) is an ideal; the ideal no longer exists -- America *is* its people; its people *are* America -- America is no longer a reality; America has ceased to exist; America must be withdrawn from the corporate private_money system to be reborn; the American System with its public_money system, communitarian and constitution values must be reinstated - the American people have been usurped of their *rights* under the corporate system -- corporate government and politicians at all levels must be disbanded and community "citizen assemblies", with a federated "people's congress" must be instituted in its place -- the individual is his own representative in the consensus process.

violence must be avoided; you don't fight the Beast by becoming a beast yourself; non-violent EXPATRIATION is a must -- people have been mislead, even most in power - a massive educational effort must be initiated - people must be reacquainted with the American System as *ideal*, founded and based on God's Word - each citizen as teaching ministrant; study circles -- the American Dream must be awakened; the dream must become reality; we have been lulled into a very restless, deep sleep; the nightmare must end !!

a focus on the the social message - there is no shortage of persons preaching the Gospel message - the social message is the other side of the coin - the communitarian values inherent within the Gospel message - the spiritual and physical are inextricably intertwined together, they cannot be separated and must be lived and experienced together, there is only one way; to conquer others is to know power, to conquer yourself is to know the way [the return of Christ's social message; the communitarian church; the human_organism] -- the spiritual focus in all aspects of life [the 10C] is primary, the spiritual nature in each of us; cities thick with people need to be stirred; the begettall of physical society, a transformation from the ground up; truth planted, nurtured, harvested; conversion is a process.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:45 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Communitarian Alternative: Open_Notes 7

spending a wage = spending your life -- voluntary simplicity, compassion [Janet Luhrs, author "The Simple Living Guide"]
- simple and enriched -- to earn a living, to make a living vs. "a living" as an inalienable right given to each by God; to contribute to a living is the proper communitarian term - the common_wealth NOT private_wealth -- the church is NOT a business; the church is an organism of people; a people who contribute and distribute where needed - a for-profit corporation is a criminal entity; usury is against the Law of Almighty God, and is condemned in the Bible -- the SAGE set the conditions of life; this cannot be allowed to continue; the very existence of humanity is being threatened (the loss of our human-ity will result in the death of humanity), the corporate view is obscuring this fact; society's veneration without comprehension; thought required to lead and not be led; the commons must speak by its actions vs. the corporate state ["a distinct artifact of ruling classes, a professionalized monopoly of violence to assure the subjugation and exploitation of human by human" (-Murray Bookchin)] - 2 Cor 10:5 "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ", thus ensuring ultimate freedom and equality.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:42 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Communitarian Alternative: Open_Notes 8

socialism, pacifism, organized church activity, ngo's, and other aspects of worldly life = inadequate patching on a social system that needs to be discarded and replaced - the promise of the corporate kingdom has replaced the promise of the Kingdom of God, the almighty dollar has replaced Almighty God in the affairs of men -- the real in_com = inclusive community: good works, physical salvation, light of a sound mind (let your light so shine before men), habitus -- the consequences of decisions made by human beings - we can make different choices, to institutionalize different values - somewhere there is a deep consciousness for change - a post-corporate world - not-for-profit stakeholder co-ops, family firms, etc. -- restored to health, of a sound mind, self_controlled.

people of conscience vs. property elevated above the human condition; the elevation of humanity above the bottom-line -- the paradox of prosperity = affluenza; depression - the living_standard vs. living standards -- the corporation is a fiction, a manifestation of mind -- Americanada Inc. -- monetary repression, oppression -- disassemble [to take apart], disassembly of the common_cause - dissemble [to conceal under a false appearance; SAGE] - the dissociation of humanity -- don't believe in the victimizer - maintain your sense of self-respect, dignity - life is more than just enduring and surviving.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:38 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Communitarian Alternative: Open_Notes 9

consumption contraceptive needed to decouple our consumption from the results engendered; a layer of reason -- a demographically divided planet - world population 06B Tue.Oct.12.99 - the income of the richest 225 people = 1/2 the worlds people -- ecological degradation - 1st world disproportionate share -- (the corporate argument that) the resources to sustain economic growth becoming more abundant not more scarce; resources are creations of human ingenuity, technology, innovation; we manufacture our own resources; resource availability will advance vs. all resources (the use of natural resources; the basis) are limited by their rates of renewal -- the food issue debate - population growth, rising levels of consumption - the means of the 1st world to insulate itself from resource scarcity and population growth is not available to the 2nd and 3rd worlds -- decreased consumption needs to be seen as not a loss - extraction and disposal stream vs. "natural" capitalism - profit with conservation needed - waste must be reintroduced into the economy - environment saving activities, markets needed.

a significant correlation between education and employment opportunities for girls and women worldwide with fertility rates, family planning, and food yields; access to farm credit for 3rd world women, the critical inputs needed for food production must be made available -- disparities of wealth increasing, a looming demographic nightmare -- (the corporate

argument that) free and open markets the key to prosperity; institutions to create wealth opens the way to all else; growth argument vs. meeting basic needs priority; redistribution of land; access to education, health care, etc., needed prior to free-for-all, capitalistic rule of law, property rights, etc. -- [NPR, Science Friday, "Population Growth", Oct.07.99]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:35 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Communitarian Alternative: Open_Notes 10

raising interest rates vs. inflation is a contradiction - raising rates raises mortgages, loans, etc., leading to labor urges for increased income, and for retailers to raise prices which leads to inflation -- 4-5% of the money stock comes from government (notes, coins), 95% from bank lending (debt); currency = debt token -- globalization = cross-transfer of nearidentical goods vs. producing, consuming locally - TNC controlled; WTO is not an impartial body, ie., GM food industry vs. precautionary principle (burden of proof on the protestors not the producers) - GM foods part of a trend of mass produced, centralized, bulk transport of food (corporate excuse to combat lack of food worldwide - in reality not want of food, but want of money to purchase the food) -- debt to supply money > cheapness of products (economy run on debt) - mass produced, cheap goods, processed foods (chemicals added to preserve profits) - GM foods cheaper, lasts longer, ie., tomato's (ripens longer on shelf).

destructive economics vs. efficient use of resources; non-durable products; continual waste of livelihoods -- money need not be created by private debt; government has the obligation to issue money without debt (a safe and uniform currency) -- massive reform needed; this is an important message and needs to be reported responsibly -- modern capitalism = lending capitalism (borrower-lender-return); debt-based financial system (individual incomes, lives massively depleted); government control of currency is NOT communism -- western governments sell bonds to banks, banks issue credit; government does not print money; government power lies in taxation and expenditure not in currency issue -- "COMER" a study in economic reform (Canada). -- [based on Michael Rothbotham, uk author, "The Grip of Debt", pub. Christian Council of Monetary Justice]

eCommerce WWW (World Without Walls) global market - WTO = global corporate power concentration; reflects the worst not the best; human rights and the environment sacrificed on the altar of free trade -- democracy subordinated; corporations-national states claim democracy defined on trade.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:27 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Communitarian Alternative: Open_Notes 11

there is a shadow on the goods we purchase - there is a human face behind the brand name labels -- wages 4/10 of 1% of the retail price, starvation wages, avg. 1/3 of a subsistence wage - new levels of exploitation; force; fear - corporate "code of conduct" self-serving; prison-like factories -- "Made in the USA" labels suspect - El Salvador 225 factories, 50M\$ month; WTO talk of .60/hr being lowered to .35/hr -- enormous greed driving the corporations - NIKE 70,000 workers in Indonesia, China 50-60,000 workers in one complex, factories in El Salvador, Honduras -- NIKE slogan "Just Do It" - toxic glue used in sneaker manufacture with no protection, respirators - Alpine car stereos, .35/hr China - NIKE founder Phil Nike worth 5.8B\$ -- sucking the wealth off the back of slave labor -- Disney's Haiti factories, .06 of wages in a 20\$ garment; Michael Isner made 3.4M\$/week in 1998.

Burma a concentration camp, military dictatorship; May 1997 US sanctions ignored; US garment manufactures .06/hr, wages lowest in the world; all US business must be joint-ventures with the military and/or drug lords -- Walmart the largest retailer in the world; largest private sector employer in the US (no longer GM; GM largest in Mexico); 1/2 of employees eligible for food-stamps; 137.6B\$/yr (larger than 155/192 countries); plays countries off of one another for lowest wages, free-trade zones, etc. - no taxes, tariffs paid -- 475,000 US manufacturing jobs lost in 1998 due to WTO-Corporate greed - Walmart founder Walton family worth 67.5B\$ -- Saipan (US territory, but not covered by immigration, minimum wage laws) "Made in USA" labels; Chinese women laborers charged recruitment fees, room-board - indentured servitude -

Walmart-Gap etc., produces misery and poverty around the world; TNC's will NOT link trade to human rights, claim impediment to free trade; ** competitive advantage based on oppression ** -- China a massively repressive state, GM-Motorola investing heavily in China; top 20% control 55% of China, one child policy does not apply to the elite -- "United Students Against Sweatshops" vs. WTO-Corporations-Media (ie., NIKE 650M\$ advertising budget); WTO-NAFTA laws seemingly "written in stone" [by man] must be demolished [the only laws written in stone that are permanent are God's, the 10C]. -- [NPR, Alternative Radio, Charlie Kernigan, national-dir., National Labor Committee, "The Human Face of the World Economy", Dec.04.99, with [inserts]]

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:24 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Mammon or Messiah](#)

Mammon or Messiah Book 1 (full text) excerpts:

<http://caimbhriainmyrddin.blogspot.com/>

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:23 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

[Mammon or Messiah research](#)

Thursday, October 22, 2009

[The New Vision of Reality: excerpt 1](#)

for physicists at the beginning of the century, the new quantum view of reality was by no means easy to accept - the exploration of the atomic and subatomic world brought them in contact with a strange and unexpected reality - in their struggle to grasp this new reality, scientists became painfully aware that their basic concepts, their language, and their whole way of thinking were inadequate to describe atomic phenomena - their problems were not merely intellectual but amounted to an intense emotional and, one could say, even existential crisis - it took them a long time to overcome this crisis, but in the end they were rewarded with deep insights into the nature of matter and its relation to the human mind.

the dramatic changes of thinking that happened in physics at the beginning of this century have been widely discussed by physicists and philosophers for more than fifty years - they led Thomas Kuhn to the notion of a scientific paradigm, defined as "a constellation of achievements, concepts, values, techniques, etc., shared by a scientific community and used by that community to define legitimate problems and solutions" - changes of paradigms, according to Kuhn, occur in discontinuous, revolutionary breaks called paradigm shifts.

today, twenty-five years after Kuhn's analysis, we recognize the paradigm shift in physics as an integral part of a much larger cultural transformation - the intellectual crisis of the quantum physicists in the 1920s is mirrored today by a similar but much broader cultural crisis - the major problems of our time are all different facets of that crisis, which is essentially a crisis of perception - like the crisis in quantum physics, it derives from an outdated worldview, inadequate for dealing with the problems of a globally interconnected world - at the same time, researchers in several scientific disciplines, various social movements, and numerous alternative organizations and networks are developing a new vision of reality that will form the basis of our future technologies, economic systems, and social institutions.

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:34 PM](#) [0 comments](#) [✉](#)

The New Vision of Reality: excerpt 2

what we are seeing today is a shift of paradigms not only within science but also in the larger social arena - to analyze that cultural transformation I have generalized Kuhn's definition of a scientific paradigm to that of a social paradigm, which I define as "a constellation of concepts, values, perceptions, and practices shared by a community, which forms a particular vision of reality that is the basis of the way the community organizes itself."

the paradigm that is now receding has dominated our culture for several hundred years, during which it has shaped our modern Western society and has significantly influenced the rest of the world - this paradigm consists of a number of ideas and values, among them the view of the universe as a mechanical system composed of elementary building blocks, the view of the human body as a machine, the view of life in society as a competitive struggle for existence, the belief in unlimited material progress to be achieved through economic and technological growth, and, last, not least, the belief that a society in which the female is everywhere subsumed under the male is one that follows a basic law of nature - during recent decades all of these assumptions have been found severely limited and in need of radical revision - and indeed, such a revision is now occurring.

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:33 PM](#) [0 comments](#) [✉](#)

The New Vision of Reality: excerpt 3

the new paradigm may be called a holistic world view, seeing the world as an integrated whole rather than a dissociated collection of parts - it may also be called an ecological view, if the term "ecological" is used in a much broader and deeper sense than usual - deep ecological awareness recognizes the fundamental interdependence of all phenomena and the fact that, as individuals and societies, we are all embedded in (and ultimately dependent on) the cyclical processes of nature.

the new paradigm may also be called a systemic view, or systems view of the world - in my way of using these terms, "ecological" and "systemic" are synonymous, "systemic" being merely the more technical, scientific term - "holistic," however, is a slightly different concept and somewhat less appropriate to describe the new paradigm.

there are several differences between "holistic" and "ecological" (or "systemic") - a holistic view of, say, a bicycle, means to see the bicycle as a whole, to understand the interdependence of its parts, etc. - an ecological view of the bicycle includes all that and adds to it the perception of how the bicycle is embedded in its natural and social environment, where the raw materials that went into it came from, how it was manufactured, how its use affects the natural environment and the community by which it is used, etc. - this distinction between "holistic" and "ecological" is even more important when we talk about living systems, for which the connections with the environment are much more vital - finally, the term "holistic" may seem to suggest that the new paradigm deals only with the whole and no longer with the parts - this is, of course, incorrect - although there is a clear shift of emphasis from the parts to the whole, the parts are still important - for that reason, "systemic" or "ecological" seems to be a better term for the new paradigm.

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:30 PM](#) [0 comments](#) [✉](#)

The New Vision of Reality: excerpt 4

the sense in which I use the term "ecological" is associated with a specific philosophical school and, moreover, with a global grassroots movement, known as "deep ecology," which is rapidly gaining prominence - the philosophical school was founded by the Norwegian philosopher Arne Naess in the early seventies with his distinction between "shallow" and "deep" ecology - this distinction is now widely accepted as a useful terminology for referring to a major division within contemporary environmental thought.

shallow ecology is anthropocentric - it views humans as above, or outside of nature, as the source of all value, and ascribes only instrumental, or use value to nature - Deep ecology does not separate humans from the natural environment, nor does it separate anything else from it - it does not see the world as a collection of isolated objects but rather as a network of phenomena that are fundamentally interconnected and interdependent - Deep ecology recognizes the intrinsic values of all living beings and views humans as just one particular strand in the web of life.

ultimately, deep ecological awareness is spiritual, or religious awareness - when the concept of the human spirit is understood as the mode of consciousness in which the individual feels connected to the cosmos as a whole, it becomes clear that ecological awareness is spiritual in its deepest essence - it is therefore not surprising that the emerging new vision of reality, based on deep ecological awareness, is consistent with the so-called "perennial philosophy" of spiritual traditions, whether we talk about the spirituality of Christian mystics, that of Buddhists, or the philosophy and cosmology underlying the Native American traditions.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:29 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The New Vision of Reality: excerpt 5

the connections between the new paradigm in science and the basic ideas in spiritual traditions are studied in transpersonal psychology, a school of psychology which originated in California in the 1960s and is concerned, directly or indirectly, with the recognition, understanding, and realization of nonordinary, mystical, or "transpersonal" states of consciousness.

the link of these transpersonal experiences with the awareness of deep ecology has become more and more apparent over the last few years - in fact, a new book by one of the leading deep ecologists, Warwick Fox, is titled "Toward A Transpersonal Ecology".

besides deep ecology, there are two other important schools of ecology, social ecology and feminist ecology (or ecofeminism) - in recent years there has been a lively debate in philosophical journals and the alternative media about the relative merits of deep ecology, social ecology, and ecofeminism -- I would like briefly to characterize each of these three schools of thought and suggest a framework for their integration into a coherent ecological vision.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:26 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The New Vision of Reality: excerpt 6

deep ecological awareness seems to provide the ideal philosophical and spiritual basis for an ecological lifestyle and for environmental activism - however, it does not tell us much about the cultural characteristics and patterns of social organization that have brought about the current ecological crisis - this is the focus of social ecology.

the common ground of the various schools of social ecology is the recognition that the fundamentally anti-ecological nature of many of our social and economic structures and their technologies is rooted in what Riane Eisler in "The Chalice and the Blade" has called the "dominator system" of social organization - patriarchy, imperialism, capitalism, and racism are examples of social domination that are exploitative and anti-ecological -- among the different schools of social ecology there are various Marxist and anarchist groups who use the respective conceptual frameworks to analyze different patterns of social domination.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:54 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The New Vision of Reality: excerpt 7

ecofeminism could be viewed as a special school of social ecology, since it, too, addresses the basic dynamics of social domination within the context of patriarchy - however, its cultural analysis of the many facets of patriarchy and of the links between feminism and ecology go far beyond the framework of social ecology -- ecofeminists see the patriarchal domination of women by men as the prototype of all domination and exploitation and of its hierarchical, militaristic, capitalist, and industrialist forms - they point out that the exploitation of nature, in particular, has gone hand in hand with that of women who have been identified with nature throughout the ages - this ancient association of woman and nature interlinks women's history and the history of the environment, and is the source of a natural kinship between feminism and ecology - accordingly, ecofeminists see female experiential knowledge as a major source for an ecological vision of reality.

so far, I have emphasized perceptions and thinking - if that were the whole problem, the paradigm shift would be much easier - there are enough brilliant thinkers among the proponents of the new paradigm who could convince our political and corporate leaders of the merits of systemic thinking - but that's only part of the story - the shift of paradigms requires not only an expansion of our perceptions and ways of thinking, but also of our values.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:52 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The New Vision of Reality: excerpt 8

and here it is interesting to note a striking connection between these changes of thinking and of values - both of them may be seen as shifts from self-assertion to integration - these two tendencies, the self-assertive and the integrative, are both essential aspects of all living systems - neither of them is intrinsically good or bad - what is good, or healthy, is a dynamic balance; what is bad, or unhealthy, is imbalance, overemphasis of one tendency and neglect of the other - in the old paradigm, we have been overemphasizing the self-assertive values and ways of thinking and have neglected their integrative counterparts - so, what I'm suggesting is not to replace one mode by the other, but rather to establish a better balance between the two.

with that in mind, let's look at the various manifestations of the shift from self-assertion to integration - as far as thinking is concerned, we are talking about a shift from the rational to the intuitive, from analysis to synthesis, from reductionism to holism, from linear to nonlinear thinking - as far as values are concerned, we are observing a corresponding shift from competition to cooperation, from expansion to conservation, from quantity to quality, from domination to partnership. -- [excerpts 1-8] [based on "The New Vision of Reality", by Fritjof Capra]

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:47 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

The Cost of Empire - Sword and Dollar: excerpt 1

let us consider in more detail what it costs to maintain "our" military-industrial global empire [note: SAGE MIIM: Military Industrial Intelligence Matrix] - if you are an unemployed worker whose plant has just moved to South Korea or Brazil or Indonesia in pursuit of higher profits, the first thing that might come to mind is the number of jobs "our" empire has cost us - as early as 1916, Lenin pointed out that at an advanced stage capitalism would export not only its goods but its very capital, not only its products but its entire production process - today, most giant American firms do just that, exporting their capital, their technology, factories, and sales networks - it is well known that General Motors has been closing down factories in the USA; less well known is that GM has been spending billions of dollars abroad on new auto plants in countries where wages are far less than what American autoworkers are paid - this means bigger profits for GM but more unemployment for Detroit.

over the last twenty years, American firms have tripled their total outlay in other countries, with the fastest growth rate being in the Third World - nor is the trend likely to reverse itself - American capitalism is now producing abroad eight times more than it exports - many firms have shifted all their manufacturing activities to foreign lands: all the tape recorders, radios, bicycles, VCRs, typewriters, television sets, and computers - one out of every three workers employed by US multinational companies are now in foreign countries - US companies continue to export US jobs to other countries at an alarming rate: 900,000 between 1980 and 1985, 250,000 of these in 1985 alone - thus do the working people of the United States pay the hidden costs of empire.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:36 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Cost of Empire - Sword and Dollar: excerpt 2

multinationals do not have to pay US income taxes on profits made in other countries until these profits are repatriated to the USA -if ever they are - taxes paid to the host country are treated as tax credits rather than mere tax deductions, that is, write-offs from the taxes that would normally have to be paid to the US Treasury rather than from the income that is taxable - the multinational can juggle the books among its various foreign subsidiaries, showing low profits in a high-tax country and high profits in a low-tax country so as to avoid paying substantial taxes anywhere.

management's threat to relocate a plant is often sufficient to blackmail US workers into taking wage cuts, surrendering benefits, working longer hours, and even putting up money of their own for new plants and retooling - all of which represent a net transfer of income from workers to owners -- Americans are victimized by economic imperialism not only as workers but as taxpayers and consumers - the billions of tax dollars that corporations escape paying because of their overseas shelters must be made up by the rest of us - additional billions of our tax dollars go into foreign-aid programs to governments that maintain the cheap labor markets that lure away American jobs - \$13.6 billion in 1986, of which two-thirds was military aid - our tax money also serves as hidden subsidies to the big companies when used as foreign aid to finance the kind of infrastructure (roads, plants, ports) needed to support extractive industries in the Third World.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:35 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Cost of Empire - Sword and Dollar: excerpt 3

nor do the benefits of this empire trickle down to the American consumer in any appreciable way - generally the big companies sell the goods made abroad at as high a price as possible on American markets - corporations move to Asia and Africa to increase their profits, not to produce lower-priced goods that will save money for American consumers - they pay as little as they can in wages abroad but still charge as much as they can when they sell the goods at home.

from one-half to two-thirds of the major winter and early spring vegetables consumed in the United States are imported from poor countries, principally Mexico, where the land and labor cost a fraction of what they do in the USA - yet these vegetables are not sold at cheaper prices than homegrown produce - likewise, the General Electric household appliances made by young women in South Korea and Singapore who work for subsistence wages, and the Admiral International color television sets assembled by low-paid workers in Taiwan do not cost less than when they were made in the USA - as the president of Admiral noted, the move to Taiwan "won't affect pricing state-side but it should improve the company's profit structure, otherwise we wouldn't be making the move."

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:33 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Cost of Empire - Sword and Dollar: excerpt 4

we already noted how overseas investments have brought increasing misery to the Third World - of interest here is how some of that misery comes home as a visitation upon the American people - we have heard much in our media about the "refugees from Communism"; we might think a moment about the refugees from capitalism - driven off their lands, large numbers of impoverished Latinos and other Third Worlders have been compelled to flee into economic exile, coming to the United States, many of them illegally, to compete with American workers for entry-level jobs that are becoming increasingly scarce - because of their illegal status and vulnerability to deportation, undocumented workers are least likely to unionize and least able to fight for improvements in work conditions - so they serve as a reserve army of labor, further depressing the wage market for American workers -- not all immigrants are impoverished, unskilled workers - harsh economic conditions in many nations tend to encourage the exodus of the younger and more educated without whom development is impossible - the result is "brain drain," as the rich nations siphon off the trained talent and skills of the poor nations, further adding to the differential between rich and poor countries and to the downward spiral of the Third World.

other injustices inflicted by the empire upon poorer nations come home to take a toll upon ordinary Americans - for years now the poisonous pesticides and hazardous pharmaceuticals that were banned in this country have been sold by their producers to Third World nations where regulations are weaker or nonexistent (In 1981, President Reagan repealed an executive order signed a half-year before by President Carter that would have forced exporters of such products to notify the recipient nation that the commodity was banned in the USA) - with an assured export market, these poisons continue to cripple workers in the American chemical plants where they are made, and then reappear on our dinner tables in the fruit, vegetables, meat, and coffee we import - these products also have been poisoning people in Third World countries, creating a legacy of sickness and death that is starting to backfire on us.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:31 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Cost of Empire - Sword and Dollar: excerpt 5

the absence of environmental protections throughout most of the Third World affects the health and welfare of Americans in other ways (along with the well-being of other peoples and the earth's entire ecology) - the chemical toxins and other industrial effusions poured into the world's rivers, oceans, and atmosphere by fast-profit, unrestricted multinational corporations operating in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, and the devastation of Third World lands by mining and timber companies and by agribusiness, are seriously affecting the quality of the air we all breathe, the water we all drink and the food we all eat - ecology knows no national boundaries - the search for cheap farmland to raise cattle induces US companies to cut down rain forests throughout Central America - the nutrient-poor top soil is soon depleted and the land deteriorates from lush jungle into scraggly desert - then the cattle-raisers move on to other forest - the tropical rain forests in Central America and the much vaster ones in the Amazon basin are being destroyed at an alarming rate and may be totally obliterated within the next two decades - over 25 percent of our prescription drugs are derived from rain forest plants - rain forests are the winter home for millions of migratory North American songbirds, of which declining numbers are returning from Central America - many of these birds are essential to pest control.

the dumping of industrial effusions and radioactive wastes also may be killing our oceans - if the oceans die, so do we, since they produce most of the earth's oxygen - over half the world's forests are gone compared to earlier centuries - the forests are nature's main means of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere - today, the carbon dioxide buildup is transforming the chemical composition of the earth's atmosphere, accelerating the "greenhouse effect" by melting the earth's polar ice caps and causing a variety of other climatic destabilization's - while the corporations are free to roam the world and plunder it at will, we are left to suffer the immediate and long-term consequences.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:28 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Cost of Empire - Sword and Dollar: excerpt 6

additional ways that the empire strikes back home: the narcotics that victimize whole segments of our population are shipped in through secret international cartels linked to past and present CIA operatives - large-scale drug trafficking has been associated with CIA-supported covert wars in Cuba, Southeast Asia, and Central America - as of 1988, evidence was mounting linking the US-backed Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries to a network of narcotics smuggling that stretched from cocaine plantations in Columbia to dirt airstrips in Costa Rica, to pseudo-seafood companies in Miami, and, finally, to the drug-ridden streets of our society.

the empire victimizes its own people in other grim ways - thousands of Army veterans exposed to nuclear tests after World War II are now dying of cancer - Vietnam veterans who came back contaminated by the tons of herbicides sprayed on Indochina are facing premature death from cancer, while their children have suffered an abnormally high rate of birth defects (in common with the children of Vietnam) - the US military has experimented on Americans with its chemical and bacteriological warfare methods - the Navy sprayed bacteria in San Francisco in 1950, an experiment that has since been implicated in the illness of several residents and death of at least one person - in 1955, the CIA conducted a biological warfare test in Tampa Bay area, soon after which twelve people died in a whooping cough epidemic - in the 1950s and 1960s, biological warfare tests were done in various cities including St. Louis and New York, using bacilli that were known to be infectious but supposedly not fatal.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:27 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Cost of Empire - Sword and Dollar: excerpt 7

empire has a great many overhead costs, especially military ones, that must be picked up by the people - the Vietnam War cost \$168.1 billion in direct expenditures for US forces and military aid to allies in Indochina - the war's indirect costs will come to well over \$350 billion (for veterans benefits and hospitals, interest on the national debt, etc.) - as the economist Victor Perlo pointed out, by the end of the war inflation had escalated from about 1 percent a year to 10 percent; the national debt had doubled over the 1964 level; the federal budget showed record deficits; unemployment had doubled; real wages had started on their longest decline in modern American history; interest rates rose to 10 percent and higher; the US export surplus gave way to an import surplus; and US gold and monetary reserves had been drained.

there were human costs; 2.5 million Americans had their lives interrupted to serve in Indochina; of these 58,156 were killed and 303,616 wounded (13,167 with a 100 percent disability); 55,000 have died since returning home because of suicides, murders, addictions, alcoholism, and accidents; 500,000 have attempted suicide since coming back to the USA - ethnic minorities paid a disproportionate cost; thus while composing about 12 percent of the US population, Blacks accounted for 22.4 percent of all combat deaths in Vietnam in 1965 - the New Mexico state legislature noted that Mexican Americans constituted only 29 percent of that state's population but 69 percent of the state's inductees and 43 percent of its Vietnam casualties in 1966.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:25 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Cost of Empire - Sword and Dollar: excerpt 8

Americans pay dearly for "our" global military apparatus - the cost of building one aircraft carrier could feed several million of the poorest, hungriest children in America for ten years - greater sums have been budgeted for the development of the Navy's submarine rescue vehicle than for occupational safety, public libraries, and day care centers combined - the cost of military aircraft components and ammunition kept in storage by the Pentagon is greater than the combined costs of pollution control, conservation, community development, housing, occupational safety, and mass transportation - the total expenses of the legislative and judiciary branches and all the regulatory commissions combined constitute little more than half of 1 percent of the Pentagon's yearly budget.

then there is the distortion of American science and technology as 70 percent of federal research and development (R&D) funds go to the military - contrary to Pentagon claims, what the military produces in R&D has very little spin-off for the civilian market - about one-third of all American scientists and engineers are involved in military projects, creating a serious brain drain for the civilian sector - the United States is losing out in precisely those industries in which military spending is concentrated, to foreign competitors who are not burdened by heavily militarized economies - for instance, the US machine-tool industry once dominated the world market - but since so much of the industry has been absorbed by the military, foreign imports have increased six-folded and now account for more than a third of domestic civilian consumption - the same pattern has been evident in the aerospace and electronics industries, two other areas of concentrated military investment.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:23 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Cost of Empire - Sword and Dollar: excerpt 9

benefits of military R&D to the civilian economy have been small and are declining as military technology becomes increasingly specialized and exotic - the rapid expansion of military research diverts resources from the civilian economy and retards US economic growth and competitiveness in world markets - the few industries that have benefited from military research would be far better off if the money had been spent entirely on commercial research - [note: the SAGE MIIM is the primary focus and means of command-control, essential for continuity].

the pattern of distortion will worsen if the Star Warriors have their way - the estimates for the Strategic Defense Initiative ("star wars") are stratospheric indeed, as much as several trillion dollars - the cost to the rest of the economy - as measured by the military absorption of scientific talent, the loss of export markets, and the competitive disadvantage of civilian R&D is even harder to calculate -- in his eight years in office President Reagan spent upwards of \$2 trillion on the military - sums of this magnitude create an enormous tax burden for the American people who, as of 1988, carried a national debt of \$2.5 trillion, or more than twice the debt of the entire Third World - furthermore, Americans must endure the neglect of environmental needs, the decay and financial insolvency of our cities, the deterioration of our transportation, education, and health-care systems, and the devastating effects of underemployment upon millions of households and hundreds of communities.

in addition, there are the frightful social and psychological costs, the discouragement and decline of public morale, the anger, cynicism, and suffering of the poor and not-so-poor, the militarization and violence of popular culture and the potential application of increasingly authoritarian solutions to our social problems -- poverty can be found in the rich industrial nations as well as the Third World - in the richest of them all, the United States, those living below the poverty level grew in the 1981-86 period from 24 million to almost 35 million, according to the government's own figures, which many consider to be underestimations - thus making the poor the fastest growing social group in the USA - in 1986, the House Select Committee on Hunger found that disease, caused by severe protein and calorie deficiencies and usually seen only in Third World countries, could be found in the United States, along with rising rates of infant mortality in poor areas.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:20 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Cost of Empire - Sword and Dollar: excerpt 10

those regions within the United States that serve as surplus labor reserves or "internal colonies," such as Appalachia, poor Black and Latino communities, Eskimo Alaska, and Native American Indian lands, manifest symptoms of Third World colonization, including chronic underemployment, hunger, inadequate income, low levels of education, inferior or nonexistent human services, absentee ownership, and extraction of profits from the indigenous community - in addition, the loss of skilled, higher-paying manufacturing jobs, traditionally held by white males, has taken its toll of working class white communities as well - so when we talk of "rich nations" and "poor nations" we must not forget that there are millions of poor in the rich nations and thousands of rich in the poor ones - as goes the verse by Bertolt Brecht: "There were conquerors and conquered - among the conquered the common people starved; among the conquerors the common people

starved too" - as in Rome of old and in every empire since, the center is bled in order to fortify the periphery - the lives and treasure of the people are squandered so that patricians might pursue their far-off plunder.

[excerpts 1-10] [based on THE SWORD AND THE DOLLAR: Imperialism, Revolution, and the Arms Race, by Michael Parenti, St. Martins Press, 1989 - THE COST OF EMPIRE (pg 74-81) - Michael Parenti has been a major voice among progressives for more than 30 years - he received his Ph.D from Yale in 1964, and has since taught at several colleges and universities, including the State University of New York at Stony Brook and at Albany, Sarah Lawrence College, the University of Vermont, Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, and Howard Univ. - the author of DEMOCRACY FOR THE FEW, POWER AND THE POWERLESS, and INVENTING REALITY: The Politics of the Mass Media - all published by St. Martin's Press - Parenti regularly appears on radio and television programs and lectures frequently at college campuses around the country]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:16 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Mammon or Messiah](#)

Mammon or Messiah Book 1 (full text) excerpts:
<http://caimbhriainmyrddin.blogspot.com/>

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:14 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The TNCs Web of Control: excerpt 1](#)

a few hundred TNCs dominate the four intersecting webs of global commercial activity on which the fate of the world economy rests - such TNCs exert a more profound influence on the lives of the people of the world than national governments who are increasingly finding it difficult to comprehend, still less control, these corporate giants.

the emerging global order is spearheaded by a few hundred corporate giants, many of them larger than most sovereign nations - Ford's economy is bigger than that of Saudi Arabia or Norway - Philip Morris's annual sales exceed New Zealand's gross domestic product - the multinational corporation of 20 years ago carried on separate operations in many different countries and tailored its operations to local conditions - in the 1990s large business enterprises, even some smaller ones, have the technological means and strategic vision to burst old limits of time, space, national boundaries, language, custom, and ideology.

by acquiring earth-spanning technologies, by developing products that can be produced anywhere and sold everywhere, by spreading credit around the world, and by connecting global channels of communication that can penetrate any village or neighbourhood, these institutions we normally think of as economic rather than political, private rather than public, are becoming the world empires of the 21st century - the architects and managers of these space-age business enterprises understand that the balance of power in world politics has shifted in recent years from territorially bound governments to companies that can roam the world - as the hopes and pretensions of government shrink almost everywhere, these imperial corporations are occupying public space and exerting a more profound influence over the lives of ever larger numbers of people.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:12 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

The TNCs Web of Control: excerpt 2

global corporations are the first secular institutions run by men (and a handful of women) who think and plan on a global scale - things that managers of multinational companies dreamed of 20 years ago are becoming reality - Coca-Cola's ads that reach billions in the same instant, Citibank's credit cards for Asian yuppies, Nike's network for producing millions of sport shoes in factories others paid for - a relatively few companies with worldwide connections dominate the four intersecting webs of global commercial activity on which the new world economy largely rests: the Global Cultural Bazaar; the Global Shopping Mall; the Global Workplace; and the Global Financial Network - these worldwide webs of economic activity have already achieved a degree of global integration never before achieved by any world empire or nation-state.

the driving force behind each of them can be traced in large measure to the same few hundred corporate giants with headquarters in the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom - the combined assets of the top 300 firms now make up roughly a quarter of the productive assets in the world.

the Global Cultural Bazaar [1] is the newest of the global webs, and the most nearly universal in its reach - films, television, radio, music, magazines, T-shirts, games, toys, and theme parks are the media for disseminating global images and spreading global dreams - rock stars and Hollywood blockbusters are truly global products - all across the planet people are using the same electronic devices to watch or listen to the same commercially produced songs and stories - thanks to satellite, cable, and tape recorders, even autocratic governments are losing the tight control they once had over the flow of information and their hold on the fantasy lives of their subjects.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:10 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The TNCs Web of Control: excerpt 3

even in culturally conservative societies in what we still call the Third World, the dinner hour is falling victim to the television - in bars, tea houses, and cafes and in living quarters around the world the same absence of conversation and human interaction is noticeable as family members, singly or together, sit riveted in front of a cathode tube - as in the United States, Europe, and Japan, centuries-old ways of life are disappearing under the spell of advanced communication technologies.

the cultural products most widely distributed around the world bear the stamp "Made in the USA" and almost any Hollywood film or video is bound to offend traditional values somewhere - scenes depicting independent women, amorous couples, and kids talking back to parents upset all sorts of people across the globe as assaults on family, religion, and order - because the steady streams of global commercial products in many places, including parts of the United States, are feared as barbarian intrusions, they are provoking local and nationalist backlashes, often carried out in the name of God.

the Global Shopping Mall [2] is a planetary supermarket with a dazzling spread of things to eat, drink, wear, and enjoy - dreams of affluent living are communicated to the farthest reaches of the globe, but only a minority of the people in the world can afford to shop at the Mall - of the 4-5 billion people on earth, almost 3-4 billion have neither cash nor credit to buy much of anything - a majority of people on the planet are at most window-shoppers.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:07 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The TNCs Web of Control: excerpt 4

the Global Workplace [3] is a network of factories, workshops, law offices, hospitals, restaurants, and all sorts of other places where goods are produced, information is processed, and services of every description are rendered - everything from cigarettes to cars contains materials from dozens of countries pieced together in a globally integrated assembly line driven by the logic of the bottom line - data processors, law offices, advertising agencies and insurance companies have become global assembly lines of a different sort - a worldwide labour market for creative merchandising ideas, computer knowledge, patient fingers, managerial know-how, and every other marketable skill co-exists with a global labour pool in which more and more of us, from the chief executive officer to the wastebasket emptier, are swimming - hundreds of millions more of the world's uprooted and dispossessed are desperate to jump in.

the Global Financial Network [4] is a constantly changing maze of currency transactions, global securities, MasterCards, euro yen swaps, and an ever more innovative array of speculative devices for repackaging and reselling money - this network is much closer to a chain of gambling casinos than to the dull gray banks of yesteryear - 24 hours a day, trillions of dollars flow through the world's major foreign-exchange markets as bits of data travelling at split-second speed - no more than 10% of this staggering sum has anything to do with trade in goods and services - international traffic in money has become an end in itself, a highly profitable game - John Maynard Keynes, who had intimations of how technology might one day be harnessed in the service of non-recreational gambling, predicted the rise of this "casino economy", as he called it - yet as banking activities have become more global and more speculative, the credit needs of billions of people and millions of small businesses are not met.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:03 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The TNCs Web of Control: excerpt 5

viewed together, these four webs offer a picture very different from that of a global village - the Global Cultural Bazaar is reaching the majority of households with its global dreams - much smaller numbers are playing any role at all in the three networks that produce, market, and finance the world's goods and services - in the new world economy, there is a huge gulf between the beneficiaries and the excluded and, as world population grows, it is widening - the most disturbing aspect of this global system is that the formidable power and mobility of global corporations are undermining the effectiveness of national governments to carry out essential policies on behalf of their people.

leaders of nation-states are losing much of the control over their own territory they once had - more and more, they must conform to the demands of the outside world because the outsiders are already inside the gates - business enterprises that routinely operate across borders are linking far-flung pieces of territory into a new world economy that bypasses all sorts of established political arrangements and conventions - tax laws intended for another age, traditional ways to control capital flows and interest rates, full-employment policies, and old approaches to resource development and environmental protection are becoming obsolete, unenforceable, or irrelevant.

national leaders no longer have the ability to comprehend, much less control, these giants because they are mobile, and like the mythic Greek figure "Proteus" they are constantly changing appearances to suit different circumstances - the shifting relationships between the managers of global corporations and political authorities are creating a new political reality almost everywhere. -- [excerpts 1-5] [based on Fidonet, Third World Network Features, Worldtalk, 02-18-94 -- Richard J Barnet & John Cavanagh: excerpted from a chapter in a forthcoming book by the authors entitled Global Dreams: Imperial Corporations and the New World Order - Richard J Barnet is the author of Global Reach (with Ronald E Muller) and 10 other books - John Cavanagh co-directs the World Economy Project at the Institute for Policy Studies]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:01 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Philanthropy of Financiers: excerpt 1

"workers will have to realize that they are now competing for jobs against people who ride to work every day on bicycles, own only one pair of shabby sandals, and are prepared to live with their families crammed into tiny apartments" (-Robert Brusca, chief economist, Nikko Securities (New York)).

Bill Clinton, prefers more uplifting language than Brusca - take for example a little talk the president gave upon his arrival in Seattle for the Pacific Rim summit on November 18 [1993] - Clinton had nothing to say about shabby sandals - instead, speaking at the Boeing airfield - a company made mighty in part by decades of Pentagon contracts, a nice irony given repeated US insistence that Europe cut its aircraft subsidies on free trade principles - the president urged the employees of the US's largest exporter, to work even harder - "I ask you here to continue your resolve in the face of adversity to be an example to the rest of our nation, that we can compete and win in this global economy."

unlike Reagan-Bush, who believed in naked "free trade," Clinton believes in a free trade dressed up with "supports" - like a few pennies thrown into retraining, a timid industrial policy, and a misbegotten health care program - these mighty supports will, Clinton boasted in Seattle, "enable our people to compete and win in the global economy, and find more markets for our products and services" - finding more markets is key in a world where "fewer people can produce more things," Clinton said - it's not the relentless discipline of the global market itself that's bearing down on US living standards - it's just that American workers need a better routine and better coaching.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:57 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Philanthropy of Financiers: excerpt 2

head coach Clinton should have a session with the classics - supposedly a heavy reader, he could have begun an interesting journey with a hint recently dropped by the Wall Street Journal - to open an article on how the battle over NAFTA was polarized along class lines, the Journal used this quotation from Karl Marx's 1848 Brussels speech on free trade: "the free trade system is destructive - it breaks up old nationalities and pushes the antagonism of the proletariat and the bourgeoisie to the extreme point - it is in this revolutionary sense alone, that I vote in favor of free trade" - Marx was never one to seek a middle way.

had the president dispatched an aide to retrieve Marx's full text, he would have found an argument far different from his upbeat exhortations to win the war of each against all - as borders fall and the globe becomes a single market, Marx argued, "productive capital grows, [but] competition among the workers grows in a far greater proportion - the reward of labor diminishes for all, and the burden of labor increases for some."

in his speech, Marx quoted David Ricardo, who enumerated the virtues of free trade with a clarity beyond that of modern economists - Ricardo said: "if, therefore, by the extension of foreign trade, or by improvements in machinery, the food and necessities of the labourer can be brought to market, at a reduced price, profits will rise - if, instead of growing our own corn, or manufacturing the clothing and other necessities of the labourer, we discover a new market from which we can supply ourselves with these commodities obtained at a cheaper price, wages will fall and profits rise" - Ricardo, like Marx, held that wages tended toward the minimum necessary to keep the average worker alive and reasonably functional; anything that depressed the costs of keeping the worker alive would help drive wages down, and profits up - that the immiseration of the worker might cause the system to implode, because of a contraction of buying power or the degradation of the workers or the fraying of society, was not a problem that troubled Ricardo, though it did trouble Marx.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:54 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Philanthropy of Financiers: excerpt 3

and before denouncing the unions who helped elect him as thugs and boors, Clinton might have studied the words of Ricardo's predecessor Adam Smith, who remarked on the strange disproportion in the ways that combinations among capital and combinations among labor (whom Smith called masters and workmen) are viewed - "the masters, being fewer in number, can combine much more easily; and the law, besides, authorises, or at least does not prohibit their combinations, while it prohibits those of the workmen - we have no acts of parliament against combining to lower the price of work; but many against combining to raise it ... masters are always and everywhere in a sort of tacit, but constant and uniform combination, not to raise the wages of labour above their natural rate - to violate this combination is everywhere a most unpopular action, and a sort of reproach to a master among his neighbors and equals - we seldom hear of this combination, because it is the usual, and one may say, the natural state of things ... masters, too, sometimes enter into particular combinations to sink the wages of labour below this rate - these are always conducted with the utmost silence and secrecy ... [Wealth of Nations, Book I, Chap. 7, "On the wages of labour"].

Smith didn't think this was a good thing - later in the wages chapter, he argued that "the liberal reward of labour ... is the natural symptom of increasing national wealth - the scanty maintenance of the labouring poor, on the other hand, is the natural symptom that things are at a stand, and their starving condition that they are going fast backwards" - the "liberal reward of labour" is to be welcomed, Smith said, not lamented; high wages are a spur to diligence; low wages, to over-work and ruin - elsewhere, Smith said that profits were always low in prosperous countries and high in those heading most rapidly towards ruin - you'll never hear an argument like that on McLaughlin.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:52 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Philanthropy of Financiers: excerpt 4

rather than mine the classics, Clinton takes his theory from in-house thinkers like Bob Rubin, formerly of Goldman Sachs, and Bob Reich, formerly of Harvard - Reich believes that in a world of mobile capital, countries can prosper only by making the immobile factors of production, infrastructure and the workforce, more comely in capital's eyes - this was the thinking behind Clinton's campaign promises to invest in things and people - Reich's argument was expressed in cruder form by David Mulford, Bush's Undersecretary of the Treasury for International Affairs (a post now held by Larry "Africa is Vastly Underpolluted" Summers) - "the countries that do not make themselves more attractive will not get investors' attention - this is like a girl trying to get a boyfriend - she has to go out, have her hair done up, wear makeup" - tart yourself up for Mr. Capital.

but the other Bob didn't like the invest-in-people talk; Rubin and his friends prefer to invest in bonds, and bondholders love deficit reduction, a slow economy, and lowered expectations - campaign promises for increased public investment, tiny as they were, turned into real investment cuts, and export promotion became the magic bullet - Clinton has apparently decided the US economy, with all its fiscal ills, cannot power itself, and must rely on new foreign markets to do the trick - unfortunately, 120 other countries have the same idea.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:50 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Philanthropy of Financiers: excerpt 5

free trade agreements are the outward sign of this globalizing order - NAFTA cements, and promotes, the integration of Mexican subsidiaries into the production networks of US Multinational Corporations (MNCs) - soon, Chile and Argentina are to join the NAFTA orbit - at the same time, Clintonites are promoting integration to the west; the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, whose summit Clinton attended in Seattle, isn't much now, but free trade promoters would like to see APEC become a Pacific Rim NAFTA - and of course a deal in the GATT world trade talks would generalize an expanded free-trade regime to whole new industries and to nearly the whole world.

to what end? - the argument for free trade has hardly changed, except for a pseudo-scientific overlay of mathematics, since David Ricardo laid it out in 1817 - Ricardo, like generations of model-building economists after him, imagined a two-commodity, two-country world in which Britain was the most efficient producer of cloth (the high-tech product of its day) and Portugal, of wine - Ricardo argued that the welfare of both countries would be maximized if Britain concentrated on making cloth and imported its wine from Portugal and vice versa - for Britain to try to make wine would be a waste of time and money, as would Portugal's attempts to make cloth - but few commodities are like wine, which is best produced only in certain regions - Portugal's lack of access to British weaving equipment, however, had nothing to do with geography; advanced countries guard their technological dominance fiercely.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:48 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Philanthropy of Financiers: excerpt 6

a fine critique of mid-20th century Ricardian theology is this, by Joan Robinson: the economist's case for free trade is deployed by means of a model from which all relevant considerations are eliminated by the assumptions - each country enjoys full employment - there is no migration of labor and no international investment, however great the differences in the level of profits in different countries may be - at the same time there is perfect mobility and adaptability of factors of production within each country - perfect competition prevails - fixed exchange rates are taken for granted - equality between the values of imports and exports of each country is quickly established, in the face even of large disturbances, by movements of relative prices brought about through the international monetary mechanism -- all this has to be taken for granted before the argument begins - yet prescriptions for policy were drawn from it, with great confidence, to apply to a world which by no means conformed to the assumptions.

of course, this dogma, Robinson acknowledged, had "solid interests behind it" - the imperial-corporate classes of Britain in the 19th century and the US in the 20th - Robinson's 1965 critique focused on the contradictions between assumptions and reality: theoreticians' dismissals of unemployment, currency and capital market irrationality, large trade imbalances, and what Robinson called the new mercantilism, the model of state-led export-promotion that makes every country a more eager seller than buyer - Clinton seems a much better New Mercantilist than Bush, an activism that can only intensify global competition.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:46 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Philanthropy of Financiers: excerpt 7

Robinson's critique, sharp as it was, spoke of countries; the true MNC was only a toddler - Ricardo himself thought cross-border capital flows would never account for much, as this quaint passage shows: experience, however, shows that the fancied or real insecurity of capital, when not under the immediate control of its owner, together with the natural disinclination which every man has to quit the country of his birth and connections, and intrust himself, with all his habits fixed, to a strange government and new laws, check the emigration of capital - these feelings, which I should be sorry to see weakened, induce most men of property to be satisfied with a low rate of profits in their own country, rather than seek a more advantageous employment for their wealth in foreign nations -- obviously, today's business cosmopolitans are a long way from Ricardo's sentimental patriots, and today's MNC a long way from Ricardo's national firm.

the World Bank estimates that a third or more of world trade consists of transfers within the 350 largest MNCs - the shipment of microprocessors, say, from IBM Germany to IBM France - few of Mexico's top importers and exporters are Mexican firms; the top 10 list is populated by Chrysler, GM, Volkswagen, Kimberly Clark, Hewlett-Packard, Ericsson, Renault, Xerox, and IBM, who ship parts in and finished products out - a study by the Conference Board of Canada, a business-sponsored research group, observed that "intra-firm trade is an integral part of the Canadian economy, and is one of the main links between the Canadian and US economies - add trade among the 350 and you have the critical mass of international commerce - (that isn't to say that the 350 are monopolists; competition in most industries is quite intense --

though competition is suspended when a chance to cut wages, like NAFTA, arises) - free trade agreements mean giving these MNCs freer rein, protecting their property against impediment and seizure.

 Share / Save

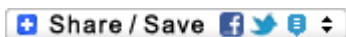
Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:44 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Philanthropy of Financiers: excerpt 8

MNCs render classic theories relating wages to labor productivity obsolete - according to theory, wages are low in poor countries because output per hour worked is commensurably low - that may have been true in the days before MNCs, but now workers paid pennies an hour can be furnished with advanced machinery and managed with advanced techniques by MNCs or their local subcontractors - studies show US owned auto plants in Mexico are 85% as productive as US plants - and some newer plants are the equal of any in the world - but pay their Mexican workers only 6% as much as their US counterparts.

"investment clusters" are identified by the UN Transnational Corporations and Management Division (TCMD, formerly the Centre on Transnational Corporations) - the TCMD has been developing a model of the new order in which the three foci of the global economy - Western Europe, the US, and Japan - are gathering about them a handful of poorer countries to act as sweatshops, plantations, and mines - but, rather than focusing on the divisions among what it calls the Triad, the TCMD points as well to their deep investment and trade links, links established by MNCs and nurtured by free trade agreements.

trade patterns reflect these investment clusters - Almost 60% of US trade is with developed countries, with a handful of large countries like Mexico, Brazil, and South Korea making up most of the balance - over half of Japan's trade is with the developed world and another third is with Asia, leaving only 15% for the rest of the Third World - Europe trades largely with itself, the US, Japan, Eastern Europe, and Africa - much of this "trade" is the trans-border migration that goes on within MNCs.

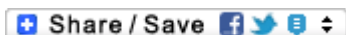
 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:39 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Philanthropy of Financiers: excerpt 9

again, free trade is a misleading term; a more accurate one would be the regional and global integration of production and distribution, a far more serious business than trade - as the TCMD put it in its 1992 World Investment Report: regional production integration goes beyond trade integration and extends to the liberalization of barriers to cross-border flows of capital, technology, skills, and to some extent, people - more specifically, the policies that allow for such movements go much further in integrating national economies and regulatory systems than policies designed to support intra-regional trade, since adjusting to a regional production system implies harmonizing a wide range of fiscal, monetary, and industrial policies among member countries.

harmonizing means adapting to the needs of MNCs, and national economic policy making becomes a global contest for big capital's favors - big capital spent a lot of money on a PR campaign for NAFTA - Citibank and AIG (a huge, rapacious insurance company) offered citizens an 800 number for lobbying their representatives for the pact - the pitch was that it would create jobs; AIG said NAFTA was a gift to our children - Marx mocked his industrialists' free trade campaign, which touted cheaper bread but forgot to mention lower wages and higher profits, as the philanthropy of manufacturers - in pumping for NAFTA, Citibank and AIG, which are hot to enter restricted Mexican financial markets, were practicing the philanthropy of financiers.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:37 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Philanthropy of Financiers: excerpt 10

but the battle for NAFTA and GATT isn't just one for sectoral advantage - by expanding the realm of competition from nation to world, the level of competition between workers and capitals is intensified - "productive capital grows, [but] competition among the workers grows in a far greater proportion - the reward of labor diminishes for all, and the burden of labor increases for some" - had Marx been writing today, he might have added that nature is treated in an equally abusive fashion - something to be worked harder.

it would have been lovely had NAFTA failed - for a moment it even looked like it might - it would have been a political blow to the world marketeers, and might have cemented a tri-national coalition of labor, greens, and energized citizens that developed in the struggle against the pact - it will be hard to sustain that cohesion, especially after a crushing loss - but what's the alternative? - traditional protectionism in a world of stateless commodities makes no sense; which is the American car, a Ford made in England or a Honda in Ohio? - it's hard to build cross-border links, especially if you don't have ten-digit budgets - NAFTA has the virtue of making integration visible; it certainly did sharpen the contradictions -- if capital insists on integrating, those who joust with it have to do the same. -- [excerpts 1-10] [based on Left Business Observer #61, published December 15, 1993]

  Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:34 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Mammon or Messiah

Mammon or Messiah Book 1 (full text) excerpts:

<http://caimbhriainmyrddin.blogspot.com/>

  Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:29 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Corporation: excerpt 1

anyone who reads beyond the daily newspaper must be aware that the environment is in deepening trouble worldwide - for example, year after year, Lester Brown and his colleagues at the Worldwatch Institute in Washington, DC., quietly catalog the world's deteriorating environmental conditions: [1] clean water growing scarcer, forests dwindling, marine mammals declining, indigenous human populations disappearing, the oceans' fisheries collapsing, protein shortages emerging, productive topsoil diminishing, contamination by pesticides and industrial chemicals steadily growing, species loss accelerating, chronic diseases rising throughout the industrialized world - and this short list only brushes the surface.

increasingly, citizens are searching for root causes of the world's environmental decline, seeking pressure-points where focused attention might make a fundamental difference - here we examine the legal entity called the corporation -- corporations are legal fictions created by law to engage in business for the purpose of returning a percentage on investors' capital -this legal purpose requires that sufficient growth must occur each year (on average) to produce a surplus that can be returned to investors; and it requires that costs must be "externalized" (passed along to outside parties, such as workers or the general public) to the extent possible - as a former Ronald Reagan economist, Robert Monks, has said, "despite attempts to provide balance and accountability, the corporation as an entity became so powerful that it quickly outstripped the limitations of accountability and became something of an externalizing machine, in the same way that a shark is a killing machine - no malevolence, no intentional harm, just something designed with sublime efficiency for self-preservation, which it accomplishes without any capacity to factor in the consequences to others." [2]

  Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:26 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Corporation: excerpt 2

individuals who make decisions for corporations are not free to do what they personally believe is right - they must do what will externalize costs and promote sufficient growth to provide a decent return on investment - if corporate decision-makers make decisions contrary to these narrowly, and legally, defined corporate goals, they can be sued by shareholders for breach of fiduciary trust - suppose Dow Chemical, or DuPont, decided to use a significant portion of its assets to reverse environmental damage - how long would it be before they found themselves in court for breach of fiduciary trust? - these corporations are chartered to pump out chemicals profitably; legally, that is about all they can do.

a corporation's narrow financial purposes strictly limit the range of decisions possible within corporate culture - the legal framework of the corporation strongly favors decisions that foster short-term gain over decisions that protect public trust resources upon which humanity depends for sustenance, such as the oceans or the atmosphere -- finally, and this is the most important aspect of the corporation, individual investors and managers are legally protected from liability for the corporation's actions - indeed, limiting individual liability was the purpose for which the corporation was invented - furthermore, as a matter of U.S. law, since 1886 corporations have been accorded many of the rights and Constitutional protections of an individual, without the responsibilities of an individual [3] - in addition, of course, modern corporations have perpetual life, and can accumulate assets and influence on a scale that no individual could ever hope to acquire - many international corporations have annual budgets larger than the annual budgets of many developing nations.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:23 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Corporation: excerpt 3

because corporations cannot feel pain when the corporation hurts someone or damages the environment, the fundamental constraint on human behavior (personal pain) is missing from the corporate form -- this is a point worth emphasizing - it is principally through pain that humans learn to control themselves and civilize their behavior - a baby tries to crawl through a solid door; the resulting bump on the forehead teaches something fundamental about limits imposed by the external world - later, the baby wants someone else's ice cream cone, takes it, and gets punished - a painful but important lesson on the limits of personal behavior - as we grow, we develop an individual conscience; anti-social behavior begins to hurt us because we feel guilt and remorse - thus do we learn to control our selfish impulses.

because corporations cannot feel pain after they grow to a certain size, no penalty or fine can effectively hurt them - they simply pass the cost on to shareholders and customers - even if a handful of executives are put in jail, the corporation itself goes on, largely untouched -- you can think of a corporation as a smiling giant that has perpetual life, cannot feel pain, must constantly grow larger (doubling in size every decade or so), must deposit its excreta in public places and do everything else it can to make its neighbors and compatriots pay all its costs of living - its legal form requires the corporation to spend billions hiring armies of talented specialists in law, public relations, media manipulation, and the science of persuasion, all aimed at making the corporation appear as nothing more than an ordinary concerned citizen - this smiling colossus is a frightening alien indeed.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:20 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Corporation: excerpt 4

we have many thousand such creatures among us now - legally prohibited from sharing in the milk of human kindness, and increasingly free of social (regulatory) constraints because of modern "free trade" legislation (NAFTA and GATT) - corporations are now poised to transform the planetary ecosystem on a scale and at a pace unimaginable just 30 years ago -- there seems little doubt that the majority of corporate decision-makers are well meaning people, as individuals - nevertheless, the need for constant growth (on average), and the need to externalize costs, combined with an enforced freedom from personal responsibility and liability for the corporation's actions, add up to a corporate culture that is prone to

cut corners, shrug off responsibility toward its neighbors, and exhibit behavior that could only be called, at best, selfish and antisocial and, at worst, sociopathic.

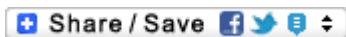
humanity is clearly endangered, and we face two hard paths: business as usual, or real change adopting pollution prevention with its attendant dislocations - down the one path very likely lies the eventual destruction of our species - down the other, at least a hope of salvation -- naturally corporations will not sit by while fundamental controls are imposed upon their behavior - it is their nature that they must fight to retain their present privileges - they have to - corporate managers are not bad people - on the contrary, they are, most of them, good people - but they are ethically imprisoned by the corporate form - even if a majority of decision-makers inside American corporations agreed that they were destroying the planet, industry would not be able to make the needed shifts - existing incentives are simply all wrong.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:19 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The Corporation: excerpt 5](#)

now, therefore, the time has come to liberate our friends and compatriots trapped inside the ethical perdition of the corporate form - they know what is right, just like the rest of us - like the rest of us, they understand some of what must be done - yet they are powerless to do the right thing and make the needed changes -- we could liberate our compatriots from the corporate form by providing corporations with at least two key changes, to give them real incentives to curb their own worst tendencies: [4] -- One: we could remove from corporations the Constitutional protections of a natural person (for clearly they are nothing like one) -- Two: we could revoke the corporate charters of those that insist on doing major harm - "three strikes and you're out," is the current phrase advocated for individual criminals, and it could be applied to corporations - three felony convictions and you lose your corporate charter - the corporate charter is the paper, issued by state legislatures, that bestows upon any corporation the privilege of doing business - denying a corporation the full Constitutional protections enjoyed by a natural person is only logical - natural persons can go to jail or face fines that bring ruin - but corporations cannot go to jail or even be effectively fined - corporations cannot feel embarrassment, guilt or remorse - to restore to corporations some human dimension, they could be denied the Constitutional protections of the individual citizen.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:17 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

[Mammon or Messiah research](#)

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

[The Corporation: excerpt 6](#)

legal historian Carl Mayer suggests a new amendment to the US Constitution, as follows:

[5] THIS AMENDMENT ENSHRINES THE SANCTITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND ESTABLISHES THE PRESUMPTION THAT INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED TO A GREATER MEASURE OF CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTIONS THAN CORPORATIONS - FOR PURPOSES OF THE FOREGOING AMENDMENTS, CORPORATIONS ARE NOT CONSIDERED "PERSONS," NOR ARE THEY ENTITLED TO THE SAME BILL OF

RIGHTS PROTECTIONS AS INDIVIDUALS - SUCH PROTECTIONS MAY ONLY BE CONFERRED BY STATE LEGISLATURES OR IN POPULAR REFERENDA

- the second reform - allowing for revocation of the corporate charter - would permit corporations to mold their behavior in response to a real threat of capital punishment, counterbalancing the short-term need to externalize costs and make a profit - charter revocation spells corporate death - such a threat would give everyone in the corporation an enormous incentive to check corporate crimes and harms before they got out of hand.

outfitting corporations with a perpetual threat of death would concentrate the minds of management, shareholders and workers wonderfully, providing a strong, continuing incentive for ethical behavior - such a perpetual threat would humanize and civilize the corporate form, which in recent years has arguably emerged as our most rogue and dangerous institution.

-- [excerpts 1-6] [based on Peter Montague, Ph.D., RACHEL'S HAZARDOUS WASTE NEWS #388 May 5, 1994]

[1] Lester R. Brown and others, STATE OF THE WORLD 1994 (New York: W.W. Norton, 1994); Lester R. Brown and others, VITAL SIGNS 1993 (New York: W.W. Norton, 1993).

[2] Robert A.G. Monks and Nell Minow, POWER AND ACCOUNTABILITY (New York: Harper Collins, 1991), pg. 24.

[3] Richard Grossman and Frank T. Adams, TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS; CITIZENSHIP AND THE CHARTER OF INCORPORATION (Cambridge, Mass.: Charter, Inc., 1992).

[4] For 50 ways to reform corporations see Russell Mokhiber, CORPORATE CRIME AND VIOLENCE (San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1988), pgs. 38-65.

[5] Carl J. Mayer, "Personalizing the Impersonal: Corporations and the Bill of Rights," HASTINGS LAW JOURNAL Vol. 41 No. 3 (March 1990), pgs. 577-667.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:12 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monday, October 19, 2009

[The Trilateral Commission: excerpt 1](#)

Trilateral Commission: World Shadow Government -- the Trilateral Commission was established in 1973 - its founder and primary financial angel was international financier, David Rockefeller, longtime chairman of the Rockefeller family-controlled Chase Manhattan Bank and undisputed overlord of his family's global corporate empire - Rockefeller's idea for establishing the Commission emerged after he had read a book entitled "Between Two Ages" written by an Establishment scholar, Prof. Zbigniew Brzezinski of Columbia University.

in his book Brzezinski proposed a vast alliance between North America, Western Europe and Japan - according to Brzezinski, changes in the modern world required it - "resist as it might," Brzezinski wrote elsewhere, "the American System is compelled gradually to accommodate itself to this emerging international context, with the US government called upon to negotiate, to guarantee, and, to some extent, to protect the various arrangements that have been contrived even by private business" - in other words, it was necessary for the international upper class to band together to protect its interests, and to ensure, in the developed nations, that political leaders were brought to power who would ensure that the global financial interests (of the Rockefeller's and the other ruling elites) would be protected.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:43 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Trilateral Commission: excerpt 2

although the initial arrangements for the Commission were laid out in a series of meetings held at the Rockefeller's famous Pocantico Hills estate outside New York City, Rockefeller first introduced the idea of the Commission at an annual meeting of the Bilderberg group, this one held in Knokke, Belgium in 1972 - the Bilderberg group is similar to the Trilateral Commission in that it is funded and heavily influenced by the Rockefeller empire, and composed of international financiers, industrialists, media magnates, union bosses, academics and political figures - however, the much older Bilderberg group's membership is strictly limited to participants from the United States, Canada and Western Europe: ie., the NATO alliance.

the Trilateral Commission was unique, though, in that it brought the Japanese ruling elite into the inner councils of the global power brokers, a recognition of Japan's growing influence in the world economic and political arena.

the Commission's purpose is to engineer an enduring partnership among the ruling classes of North America, Western Europe and Japan - hence the term "Trilateral" - in order to safeguard the interests of Western capitalism in an explosive world, the private Commission is attempting to mold public policy and construct a framework for international stability in the coming decades - to put it simply, Trilateralist's are saying: the people, governments and economies of all nations must serve the needs of multinational banks and corporations - in short, Trilateralism is the current attempt by ruling elites to manage both dependence and democracy - at home and abroad.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:40 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Trilateral Commission: excerpt 3

another Trilateral critic, now-retired Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), views the Commission as a Rockefeller family operation through and through - according to Goldwater: "the Trilateral organization created by David Rockefeller was a surrogate - the members selected by Rockefeller, its purposes defined by Rockefeller, its funding supplied by Rockefeller - David Rockefeller screened and selected every individual who was invited to participate" -- David Rockefeller and Brzezinski then began the process of selecting from among the "Trilateral" nations the several hundred elite power brokers who would be permitted to join in Trilateral policy making in the coming years.

one of the Commission's primary goals was to place a Trilateral influenced President in the White House in 1976, and to achieve that goal it was necessary to groom an appropriate candidate who would be willing to cooperate with Trilateral aims - Rockefeller and Brzezinski selected a handful of well-known liberal Democrats and a scattering of Republicans (primarily of the liberal-internationalist bent) to serve on the Commission - and in an effort to give regional balance to the Commission, Rockefeller invited the then-obscure one-term Democratic governor of Georgia, Jimmy Carter, to join the Commission - Rockefeller had longtime ties to the local Atlanta political and economic Establishment - in fact, much of Rockefeller's personal investment portfolio is in Atlanta real-estate (according to David Horowitz, co-author of "The Rockefeller's", Atlanta is Rockefeller Center South) - and Rockefeller himself had once even invited Carter to dine with him at the Chase Manhattan Bank several years before, as early as 1971, the year Carter began serving as Governor.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:34 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Trilateral Commission: excerpt 4

Carter very definitely impressed Rockefeller and Brzezinski, more so than another Southern Democrat, Florida Gov. Reuben Askew, also selected to serve on the Commission and viewed, like Carter, as a possible Trilateral candidate - in fact, according to Brzezinski, "It was a close thing between Carter and Askew, but we were impressed that Carter had opened up trade offices for the state of Georgia in Brussels and Tokyo - that seemed to fit perfectly into the concept of the Trilateral" - Carter, in fact, like Askew, did announce for the 1976 Democratic presidential nomination, but because of Rockefeller's interest, Carter had the inside shot, so much so, that in a speech at the commission's first annual meeting in

Kyoto, Japan in May of 1975, Rockefeller's man Brzezinski promoted the then-still obscure Carter to his fellow Trilateralist's as an ideal presidential candidate.

from that point on, it was all cut and dried - according to Goldwater: "Rockefeller and Brzezinski found Carter to be their ideal candidate - they helped him win the Democratic nomination and the Presidency - to accomplish this purpose they mobilized the money-power of the Wall Street bankers, the intellectual influence of the academic community - which is subservient to the wealth of the great tax-free foundations - and the media controllers represented in the membership of the CFR and the Trilateralist."

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:31 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Trilateral Commission: excerpt 5

the strange views of the Trilateral Commission's founding director, Columbia University Prof. Zbigniew Brzezinski, say much about the unusual political orientation of the Commission and its leadership - Brzezinski outlined his views in his book "Between Two Ages," published shortly before he set the Trilateral Commission in motion (1973) at the instruction of his patron David Rockefeller - Rockefeller had read Brzezinski's book and was impressed with its contents - it was this book that inspired Rockefeller to create the Trilateral Commission - here are a number of selections from the book that proved to be the genesis of the Commission:

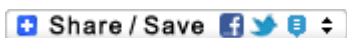
"Though Stalinism may have been a needless tragedy for both the Russian people and Communism as an ideal, there is the intellectually tantalizing possibility that for the world at large it was, as we shall see, a blessing in disguise."

"Marxism represents a further vital and creative stage in the maturing of man's universal vision - Marxism is simultaneously a victory of the external, active man over the inner, passive man and a victory of reason over belief."

"The Soviet Union could have emerged as the standard-bearer of this century's most influential system of thought and as the social model for resolving the key dilemmas facing modern man."

"The approaching 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence would justify the call for a national Constitutional Convention to re-examine the nation's formal institutional framework."

Brzezinski, of course, went on to serve as perhaps the most powerful man in the Carter Administration (1977-1981) serving as the President's National Security Adviser, responsible for maintaining America's national security (despite his written views favoring World Communism).

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:25 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Trilateral Commission: excerpt 6

Trilateral Candidates In The Stable: first-term Sen. Charles Robb (D-Va.) son-in-law of late former President Lyndon Johnson, has the inside shot at the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in 1992 or beyond - here's the primary reason why: not only is Robb a member of the Rockefeller family's Council on Foreign Relations, but he's also a member of the Trilateral Commission and already being promoted in Trilateral circles as the commission's next choice for the presidency - the Trilateralist's want to be sure that both major parties nominate candidates who, if they are not Trilateralist's, are at least amenable to the commission's demands.

thus, if he wants to be the Democratic Party's candidate against "former" Trilateralist George Bush in 1992, Robb can have the honor - and it would set him in line should he lose to be the front-runner for his party's nomination in the next election - interestingly, at least one Rockefeller linked source (the WASHINGTON TIMES newspaper, published by Korean industrialist and cult leader Sun Myung Moon, whose operations have been financed by the Rockefeller's for decades) has

already trumpeted the possibility that Robb has considered changing, or is being pushed to change, parties and running for president on the Republican ticket - this is not altogether out of the realm of possibility - after all, Robb, a self-styled "moderate" who is out of step with the very liberal elements in the Democratic Party, has been a major critic of the more extreme forces which dominate his party - whatever the end result, Robb is very much on the front lines as a potential Trilateral "man on the white horse" in the future.

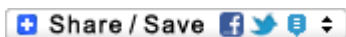
 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:21 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Trilateral Commission: excerpt 7

another favorite of the commission is another of its members, Arkansas Democratic Gov. Bill Clinton who has been touted as a presidential possibility by the Rockefeller controlled media for many years even in fact before he was actually elected governor -- [2-term President 1992-2000] -- Clinton, interestingly, is also a former Rhodes scholar -- the Rhodes scholarships were established by British financier Cecil Rhodes who hoped for an ultimate reunification of the United States and Britain - the young academics awarded Rhodes scholarships are indoctrinated with this philosophy and charged with the responsibility of promulgating its ultimate aim; indeed, one leading Trilateralist has said that an "ideal" would, in fact, be the establishment of a single politico-economic entity composed of a merger of the United States and Britain.

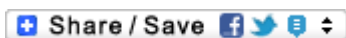
it might be added that there is yet another Trilateral presidential possibility, like Clinton a Rhodes scholar - this is former basketball star Bill Bradley, a New Jersey Democrat now serving his second term in the Senate - again like Clinton, Bradley was actually being promoted for the presidency by the media even before he even won his first election to public office -- [running for the Democratic nomination vs. VP Al Gore in the 2000 election race] -- it would, of course, be a drastic disservice not to mention another prominent commission member who, like his brother Trilateralist's, was also widely promoted as a possible presidential candidate even before he was first elected to public office - this is Sen. John D. (Jay) Rockefeller IV (D-W.VA.), heir to power and money and his late uncle Nelson's hunger for high office -- these are just a few of the potential Trilateral favorites being mentioned for the White House - there will no doubt be several more. -- [excerpts 1-7] [based on Fidonet, Media Watch 11-25-93, The SPOTLIGHT Special Ed., February, 1990]

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:16 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Mammon or Messiah

Mammon or Messiah Book 1 (full text) excerpts:
<http://caimbhriainmyrddin.blogspot.com/>

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:14 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The NWO Threat to America: excerpt 1

The New World Order Threat To America: ... Bill Clinton was put into office by the eastern establishment, those who are headed under the auspices of David Rockefeller, who are obsessed with producing a New World Order, a one-world currency, a one-world government, a one-world army, and they are intent on the United States of America becoming a socialist state - the NWO crowd owns Bill Clinton and is dominating Washington DC - ladies and gentlemen of America, this is a wake-up call for every one of you who love freedom - this nation that we love, the nation that our sons and daughters have bled and died to give birth to, the nation that birthed the American dream is being strangled by an unseen hand, a powerful, wealthy, highly orchestrated "fifth-column" that intends to transform America into a socialist state, this land of the free and home of the brave, into the clutches of a one-world government that the press is now calling the New World Order.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:12 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The NWO Threat to America: excerpt 2

listen to what I am about to say - if we as citizens do not awaken from our moral and spiritual stupor, America will be lost and lost forever ... you are watching it happen one day at a time - John 8:32 - and this is the truth - that the NWO, or a one-world government is not a new concept - this concept was born in the mind of Satan himself in the Genesis of time - Isaiah 14 records that in the Genesis, Satan organized a revolt in heaven for the purpose of kicking God off the throne, and for Satan and those who followed him to be Lord and Master of the Universe - you must remember that it is Satan's burning passion to rule and to reign - listen to his arrogant speech recorded in the Book of Isaiah - I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt myself above the Throne of God, I will be like the Most-High God - his objective: to kick God out - the result is that Satan and the third of the angels who followed him lost their position.

now listen to the Bible description of Lucifer - how are you fallen from heaven O'Lucifer, son of the morning - and how are you cut down to the ground which does weaken the nations - those last five words - which does weaken the nations - his mission is to attack the nations of the earth, especially a nation that would say "we are one nation under God", whom Satan hates with a passion - II Cor 4:4 says that Satan is the God of this world; Rev 12:9 says Satan deceives the whole world; II Cor 11:14 says Satan disguises himself into an Angel of Light.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:04 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The NWO Threat to America: excerpt 3

the next time we see Satan's one-world government concept it appears on the plains of Shinar, where Nimrod is building the Tower of Babel - the purpose: to kick God out of the affairs of men and to establish the government of Satan - the Tower of Babel was occultic with symbols of the Zodiac for decoration - God destroyed this first effort by confusing the tongues of men - that's where we get the languages of the world.

the third appearance of the NWO or the one-world government, was when Satan said to Jesus, if you will fall down and worship me I will give you the kingdoms of this world - they were his to give and he was promising Jesus, if you will worship me, you need not go to Calvary, you need not die, if you will worship me I will give you the NWO and we can rule together - Satan wanted to keep Christ from going to the Cross because it is through the Blood of the Cross that all sins are forgiven and that Satan's kingdom was forever defeated - Satan has been promising the world to anyone who would worship him.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The NWO Threat to America: excerpt 4

the next appearance of the NWO is in Europe in something called the Illuminati, a super-secret organization of international financial power-brokers, who had as their goal a one-world government, a NWO - their leaders were Satanists and agnostics [note: the SAGE are British-Israel adherents and see themselves as the "Chosen of Israel", the heirs of the promise, preparing the world for the Kingdom of God] - the name Illuminati is derived from the word Lucifer, which means "bearer of light" - Illuminati means one who is illuminated, one who is come into light -- the Bible says Satan is disguised as an Angel of Light.

the seven principles of the Illuminati was 1 a one world government; 2 the abolition of private property; 3 the abolition of the inheritance, the inability of a parent to transfer wealth to the child; 4 the abolition of religion; 5 the abolition of the family, morality, marriage; 6 the abolition of the right to educate your children; 7 the creation of a one-world government under the slogan "the happiness of the human race" - their objective was a demonic dictatorship, but they were selling it

under the banner of "the happiness of the human race" - the Illuminati gave birth to the Communist Party - Karl Marx plagiarized the Seven Principles of the Illuminati, and he put it into the Communist Manifesto.

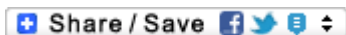


Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:56 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The NWO Threat to America: excerpt 5

from Europe, the Illuminati migrated to the 13 colonies that we came to know as the United States of America - the US dollar bears the phrase "The New World Order", the Seal adopted by Congress in 1782, the Seal on the left depicts the unfinished pyramid, with the all-seeing eye in a blaze of glory - beneath the pyramid in latin are the word "novus ordo seclorum" which means "New World Order" - the designer of this great seal was Charles Thompson, the member of the Masonic Order who served as secretary to the Continental Congress - the pyramid has special meaning to the Masonic Order [note: Pyramidology, the Great Pyramid - "The Bible in Stone", has great significance to many within British-Israelism].

after WWI, President Woodrow Wilson produced the League of Nations in man's relentless pursuit of a one-world government - the League of Nations was the forerunner of the United Nations - then came Adolf Hitler who told the German people that he would produce a new order that would last a thousand years - he dragged Europe into the bowels of a living hell - the Nazi's were Satanists and Occultists - their objective was to cast God out of Europe, and allow Satan to rule Europe - Karl Marx and the Communists pledged a NWO, an atheistic, god-hating, evil empire that has now collapsed like a house of cards, and the citizens are in the street starving to death - their objective with their clenched fist in the face of God, was to cast God out [note: the SAGE manipulated and used both (engendering holocaust) to secure victory for themselves without regard to the human toll].

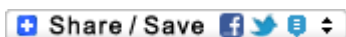


Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:48 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The NWO Threat to America: excerpt 6

listen closely, Karl Marx started the Communist Party with the Communist Manifesto that had ten political principles for a socialistic government, seven of them taken from the Illuminati - principle number one is the abolition of private property - let me give you this shocking fact - that the US government totally contrary to the Constitution now owns 35 per cent of all private land in the USA - fact: last year [1992] 56,000 people lost their property to the federal government for the violation of environmental laws they knew nothing about [note: the SAGE appropriation and misuse of environmental concerns for their own ends and the NGO's take the blame].

if you have your house paid for you still don't own it - because of the governments ability to raise taxes, when you retire on a fixed income and you can't pay the taxes, even though you own the house, you lose the house - which brings me to principle two of the Communist Party and of the Illuminati - the graduated income tax - Karl Marx said tax the rich and give it to the have-not's - Bill Clinton says tax the wealthy [note: not to be confused with the establishment], all those people who had all of those breaks in the 1980s and give it to those who don't have it - we are seeing in America the redistribution of wealth - we are seeing in America the masterful display of class warfare, of the politics of hatred - you are watching it everyday on the TV screen and you are seeing it in the media - the objective of the graduated tax is to take your wealth from you and give it to those people who will be captured and mastered by the one-world government - the government that's strong enough to give you everything, is strong enough to take everything from you.



Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:41 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The NWO Threat to America: excerpt 7

the third principle of the Communist Party was the creation of a national bank that controls the value of money - the US has the Federal Reserve that does exactly that - I don't have time to go into these other principles, only to say that our government is now trying to do every one of them at the same time - we are marching, ladies and gentlemen of America, into the sewer of a socialist state - our politicians are trying to bring to America a government that has failed in Russia and a government that has failed in Europe [note: the SAGE and their TNC's have always been monopolists, free-trade is not free-market, control is paramount - socialism has been used by the monied interests but has never been implemented in its true sense - it is regarded and hated due to its prejudiced selective implementation as just another tainted "-ism", a threat to freedom and individual rights] - they are deaf to the cries of the American people - they go beyond the Potomac and get Potomac fever bought by political action committees and foreign lobbyists - it is time for the American people to insist on term limitations - if you want to get control of your government insist on term limitations.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:35 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The NWO Threat to America: excerpt 8

the UN wants a NWO, and don't you ever forget it - the UN is not for the US - don't ever be duped into believing that - what does a NWO mean? - listen to Brock Chisholm, director of the UN World Health Organization, "to achieve world government it is necessary to remove from the minds of men their individualism, loyalty to their families, national patriotism and religion" - translation - Kick God Out! -- let me review quickly; Satan in the Genesis, Nimrod on the plains of Shinar, the Illuminati, Hitler, the Communists, the UN, the secular humanists, the ACLU - all say Kick God Out! - do you get the big picture here? - and if we as Americans do not get our hearts and lives together, if we do not return to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we are going to be living in a godless state because it was taken from us by people who hate the Gospel and who hate the name of Jesus and who detest the Word of God - let God arise and let the righteous say "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" [note: the fundamentalists see the SAGE as godless, but the SAGE see themselves as the Chosen of the Eternal, the Elect and all other interpretations of scripture as "worshipping in vain" swayed by the same devil the fundamentalists claim influence them].

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:31 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The NWO Threat to America: excerpt 9

four things have to happen before the NWO can take power in America; first there must be the systematic destruction of the monetary system; I believe America's economic problems are not created by market conditions; I believe they are planned and orchestrated to devalue and destroy the value of the US currency - it is done by a clever and powerful unseen government; consider the following: that our government deliberately abandoned the gold standard under which the US dollar was founded - in simple terms it's like building a house without a foundation - from that day the dollar has floundered and floated - our government and major US banks poured billions of dollars into Communist governments, gave the money to third world dictators who did not have the ability or desire to pay it back - why did America give these dictating Communist governments the money? - because, what few Americans know, that according to the Monetary Control Act of 1980, the Federal Reserve Board has the power to exchange US dollars for third world debt - the simple message is the banks will not lose one dime, but you ladies and gentlemen of America, you the taxpayers, will pay every dime of it, by order of the US government - Bill Clinton's new tax program will tax some of you 40 per cent in federal taxes - plug in state and local taxes and some of you are going to be paying 60 per cent taxes this year - spell that anyway you want to, but that's SLAVERY!

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:26 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The NWO Threat to America: excerpt 10

I want to remind you that the American Revolution started when King George taxed our forefathers 1 per cent on the tea that they drank - they went to Boston harbor and threw the tea overboard - the Boston Tea Party needs to happen in America again - our government is out of control - bank failures are mounting, 1256 banks are on the federal regulators problem list - if banks go like the S&L's the FDIC is going to be wiped out - bankruptcies are at an all time high - last year one million Americans declared bankruptcy - 100,000 Corporations went bankrupt - you can't pick up a newspaper these days without tens of thousands of people being laid off by Corporate America because of the high acceleration of taxes that we are now carrying - mergers and hostile takeovers are now putting more and more of America's wealth into the hands of fewer and fewer, which is an exact cause of the crash of 1929.

now comes the common sense question - why can't Congress stop the death of the dollar and the hemorrhage of our economy - the fact is, Congress doesn't want to - the second fact is, Congress does not control America's economic destiny - our economic destiny is controlled by the Federal Reserve System - the Federal Reserve System is not a government institution - it is controlled by Class A stockholders among whom are numbered the Rothschild's of Europe and David Rockefeller - the Federal Reserve has no elected officials - the Federal Reserve has never been audited - the Federal Reserve determines the rate of interest which determines what your money is worth - the value of the dollar in your pocket is controlled by an organization that is not controlled by the American government or the American people - according to Article 1 Section E of the Constitution the Federal Reserve System is unconstitutional, but the media will not cover anyone who will call for its auditing.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:21 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The NWO Threat to America: excerpt 11

why would God allow America to go through a financial crisis, a financial collapse? - because the Bible says, "thou shall have no other God's before me" - money is America's god - it has replaced our love of God and our love of the family - the love of money has enthroned "self" as lord of all - the love of money has build cathedrals on every avenue of America, where we worship, called banks - some of you have sold your souls to the God of Mammon, which is the Bible word for big money - the god's of America are falling - the banks are falling, the S&L's are falling, I'm telling you that Wall Street will, in the future, fall - but I've got good news for you, God Almighty is not going to fall, "for thine is the kingdom, the power and glory forever," build on that kingdom.

the second thing that must happen before the NWO can come to power in America is the destruction of patriotism - the unseen government, those who want a one-world government, those who fund the professional politician whose only objective is to get re-elected, have since WWII orchestrated the destruction of patriotism - the Korean War was a UN war, a police action - for the first time in American history, our objective was not victory - the purpose was to portray America as a paper tiger - when Gen. Douglas MacArthur stood before the Congress of the United States, in his speech he said, "there is no substitute for victory" - history has proven Douglas MacArthur right, and the Congress wrong - America should never go to war without victory as its absolute and first priority - Vietnam was a controlled war - we couldn't attack Hanoi, we couldn't mine the harbours, we were forbidden to attack the enemy in Laos - the result - America was portrayed as a loser - patriotism went to an all time low - US soldiers returned home and were spat upon by US citizens - America owes the Vietnam Veterans a public apology for sending them into a war that they did not intend them to win - Vietnam was the fault of the US congress, pure and simple.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:15 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

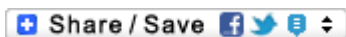
Mammon or Messiah research

Monday, October 19, 2009

The NWO Threat to America: excerpt 12

so why the flag waving in the Persian Gulf? - now writers are calling it victory without triumph because Saddam Hussein is alive and well - why the flag waving over that - to sell to the American people that the UN and the NWO is really the superior way to solve the problems on planet Earth -- here's what the NWO will mean to you spiritually and physically if the UN can ever take charge - 85 per cent of the UN consists of world representatives who hate America - to them America is the "Great Satan" - they pay 5 per cent of the operating cost of the UN, you pay 95 per cent, but they have most of the say - the UN traditionally votes against Israel - Zionism has been labelled by the UN as racism - are you willing to send US troops to fight Israel? - that's exactly what will happen if the NWO comes to power - are you willing for the UN to vote for the redistribution of the wealth of the nation?

listen to this - that means by international law, America's wealth can be taken from us, while the US Congress watches helplessly - that legislation is already in place in the UN - welcome to the NWO - they would love to get hold of your wealth and redistribute it to the nations that they say it should go to - are you willing for UN troops, Americans included, to invade San Antonio to shut down every church or synagogue that does not meet the UN mandate - in 1981 the General Assembly of the UN adopted the Declaration of the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based On Religious Beliefs - the fact is when the third world UN delegates, who are Islamic, and in the majority, when they start voting they will command the UN to shut down every Christian Church and Jewish Synagogue because there is no place of compassion in Fundamentalist Islamic Theology for Christians or Jewish people.

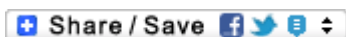
 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:06 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The NWO Threat to America: excerpt 13

the third thing that must happen for the NWO to take charge in America is the destruction of the Bible believing church [note: in the Fundamentalist definition, some of which follows] - not the mainline church, the mainline church is a weapon of the NWO - they are ordaining homosexuals, they are denying the Bible is true, they deny the miracle working power of God, they deny that Jesus was born of a virgin - Paul said it is a church that has a form of religiosity, denying the power thereof, from such turn away - any American going to these apostate churches needs to get out of it.

when you believe the Word of God, you are loyal to the Kingdom of God - you represent a government within a government [note: Heb. 11:13-16, strangers and pilgrims on the earth - Rev 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers [G4790] of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues; [G4790 sugkoinoneo AV; have fellowship with; communicate with; be partaker of; 1) to become a partaker together with others, or to have fellowship with a thing]; [EXPATRIATION] - therefore you are a hindrance to the NWO government - therefore your credibility and your confidence must be shaken in your leaders, your cause, your self - so you are being attacked by an unseen government that controls the media in America... -- [excerpts 1-13] [based on John Hagee Today Ministry, excerpt of sermon "The Deception of Somalia", October 1993]

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:59 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Sunday, October 18, 2009

[Mammon or Messiah](#)

Mammon or Messiah Book 1 (full text) excerpts:

<http://caimbhriainmyrddin.blogspot.com/>



Posted by mammonmessiah at [10:59 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Saturday, October 17, 2009

[The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 1](#)

words to speech / Genetics -- Language of Life [Creation Code] (ie., computer [machine] code; software languages c++, cobol, basic, etc., programming; development):

Psalms 19

1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The heavens declare H5608* [inscribe in stone, to inscribe, enumerate, to tell with praise, celebrate] the glory H3519* [abundance, riches] of God; and the firmament sheweth H5046* [manifest] his handywork H4640* [operative, H6213 to do, or make] H3027* [a hand, the OPEN one, (MANDELBROT SET "Thumbprint of God", Fractal Geometry - proof of Infinity) indicating power, means, direction, etc.].

2 Day unto day H3117* [advance of time, continually] uttereth H5042* [pour out] speech H562* [command], and night unto night sheweth H2331* [interpret, to continue in life, to sustain, to give life] knowledge H1847* [to be instructed, intelligence, skill, perception].

3 [There is] no speech H562* [command] nor language H1697* [declare, converse, command], [where] their voice H6963* [voice, proclamation] is not heard H8085* [to hear intelligently, INTELLIGENT DESIGN].

4 Their line H6957* [a cord (as connecting), to bind together (perhaps by twisting), [DNA Helix] i.e. collect; (figuratively) to expect, (JEZREEL - Seed, SOW; 1 Pet 1:23 "incorruptible", 1 John 3:1-2, Phillips trans., "the Words' HEREDITY", FAMILY OF GOD, GOD KIND)], is gone H3318* [is gone out, with purpose, for result] out through all H3605* [totality, everything, PERVASIVE PRESENCE OF DESIGN] the earth, and their words H4405* [word, speech, utterance] to the end of the world H8398* [inhabited earth]. In them hath he set H7760* [ordain, order, preserve, purpose] a tabernacle H168* [symbolic of wilderness LIFE] for the sun H8121* [brilliance, a ray, Sun of Righteousness, type of Jesus Christ].



Posted by mammonmessiah at [6:02 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 2

Physical Creation - LIFE - Physical Laws, Scripture of Creation - Genomic Scriptures - Genome: Book of Man (Scriptures: Book of God) -- the continuing Creation (Spiritual Laws), created in Christ Jesus (Creator, "the Word"), His Workmanship (Eph. 2:10, G4160/G4161 to band together).

language - PURE - without flaw (genetics, etc.), refined, tested - the Word - words, sentences, speech (disease/flaws) - He calls them all by name; spoke and it was done -- evolution is a belief system - the more science (scripture of creation) reveals, the laws of nature, the more improbable evolution becomes - the mathematical odds bear witness - biogenesis (life cannot come from non-life) - Heb 1:3 upholding ALL things by the word of his power -- natural selection has avoided detection -- Bible Code - word (image G1504, G5481, G4487(G4483) [Strong's] string/joined - upholding (G5342) ALL THINGS by the word of his power - the "Holy Word" BLUEPRINT of Creation - God's Law was not only etched in stone, but is etched in creation and will be etched in every heart and mind of the Beings of Creation, to become the Creator Beings.

* DNA = interface between living (being) and non-living.

* Singularity = interface between physical and spirit; interface between time and eternity; interface between natural and supernatural; Unified Field Theory - the Theory of Everything; Quantum Theory (** Holy Spirit sustains all, binds all **) (electromagnetism, weak and strong nuclear force, gravity).

* String vibration (harmony) determines particles.

* Music of the Spheres = Harmonies of Nature (creation).

* 10 Dimensions - 3 LBH, 7 (mathematical), 11 Time.

* 10 Commandments; L - before me; B - graven image; H - name in vain; T - Sabbath (name ABOVE all) (Above on Below) God's Authority on the Earth (COG, KOG).

* String Theory = Garment (threads, 10 dimensions needed): Psm 104:2 Light Garment - Isa 40:22 Heavens Curtain (fabric of space) - spreadeth them out as a tent (a tabernacle) to dwell in - Ex 26:8 Eleven (11) Curtains covering Tabernacle (goats hair); Ten (10) Curtains to make the Tabernacle (fine linen).

* Eternity = 12th Dimension; God Family (= 13th Dimension) = Spirit (pure spirit beings); Eternity surrounds and permeates time - nothing to do with time - outside the realm of time - a different plane of existence - time beyond the horizon - God inhabits eternity.

* Membranes (M-Theory) Space 10/11 Time: G3200 membrana "membrane" parchment; H1799 record, memorandum; H4040 roll, scroll, book (H4039) H1556 rolled:

- Isa 34:4 The heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll.

- Rev 6:14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together.

- Heavens Bowed - fabric of space-time folded (folding fabric of space).

- 2 Sam 22:10; Psm 18:9, 144:5 - infinite velocity (speed of thought).

- Isa 51:6 The heavens shall vanish away like smoke (Psm 104:2; Isa 40:22).

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [5:53 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 3

Beyond (the physical) comprehension - a new level of reality - the best of what's being taught and said - climbing the mountain of faith and hope - virtues of obedience and deference to authority -- authority = a firm basis for knowing and acting (mindwalk) - "the function of religious authority is the empowerment of the divine authority in all those who are under authority" (-unknown) -- Father in loving command - strong family structure - set outside the social structure - acceptance (not a forcing) of identity - what we are - pillars holding up the temple of doctrine - supreme standard - family centered not self-centered - outgoing concern.

upright, law-abiding wholesome citizen, respect for others and property, courtesy, truthfulness and reliability - Common Law: do no harm, cause no loss - able to manage own affairs and to share in the responsibility for the affairs of the community - building a strong family relationship - FAMILY to equip and inspire with proper goals, values, knowledge, understanding and self-discipline to strengthen community and nation - character and purpose oriented - dedicated to the community - a preparation to meet realities head-on with strength and ability.

God's view vs. the secular view (secularized in outlook) - triple A (AAA) - Addiction (Satan's Way) to Adaptation (God's Way) to Adoption/Addition (Family of God) - 10C God's guidelines, parameters to live by, abide by - fullest expression of God's love - love God and what He stands for - "Adherents of the Ten" - 2 Sam 22; Psalm 18 - Mount Sinai; Sermon on the Mount; Transfiguration Mount - holding each other in the highest respect - loyalty = a guarantee of trust vs. betrayal; loyalty and service - we are witnessing the end of this world's future and planning and preparing for the next - Our Calling = to restore the Government of God - the journey from death of life to life of death - concept of themselves within - calling forth their own response and sense of responsibility vs. nonconformity - inclusiveness - a community of involvement, a separate place entirely, with its own rules and processes - I am there, inside.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [5:48 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 4](#)

reject desires for things less than Christ; improper attitude, disrespect toward God; you can lie to yourself, but not to God - my heart, lusts betray me - take control of your beliefs - a reexamination of priorities vs. a stubborn mind - careful, tight management vs. loose management of our private affairs - examine yourself (with God's Spirit) - KNOW that you are in the faith -- Faith = reliance on God's Word = Righteousness -- 2 Tim 1:6-7 "I put you in remembrance that you stir up the gift of God which is in you - for God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (vs. Satan's unsound mind).

the Guiding Tree - the understanding of God's truth is a gift from God - the Immortals - the Primes - Implants (symbionts, symbiosis) - in symbiotic relationship - God is accessible - suffers with us - the good shepherd -- John 15:3 Now are ye clean through (G1223) the word which I have spoken unto you [1(a) of PLACE - with, in; 1(b) of TIME - throughout, during; 1(c) of MEANS, by, by the means of] -- do a deed for those in need - we are making memories everyday - meet with God and yourself everyday - out of the world of pagan error - inward into the truth of God - quest for the new knowledge - revelation -- Human BEING (W5): who, what, when, where and why - Sixth SENSE - sight, hearing, taste, smell, touch, Holy Spirit -- each day I grow more grateful for the opportunities you provide - having little, being much - God works through the small, the weak, and the ill prepared to magnify His power - small beginnings - accomplishment, nobility, effort - maintaining God's schedule - shelter, refuge, Holy time.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [5:44 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 5](#)

healing - physical and spiritual sickness, debts - God caring for His people - includes restoration, restoration to one's family and friends from sickness - healing and eating - release from debts (poverty, sin) and destitution (sickness and hunger) -- without spiritual food we starve to death - we have to deepen ourselves spiritually - real spiritual depth, understanding - spiritual strength to stand up and admit faults, errors - reject any margins of error as compromise - strive, succeed - personal growth vs. recession (debts, living beyond means), depression - deep things of God vs. retreating deeper and deeper into my own territory, into my own Mynd - increasing and better personal organization to ensure growth, strength - a radical re-design of our lives, attitudes needed.

walking out of sin (Egypt) into the promised land (KOG) - out of Satan's kingdom into Christ's Kingdom - Caananites (Satan type) opposed their entrance - become a spiritual warrior - warrior mentality vs. sin - our strength, success is in "knowing" obedience - right with God (righteousness) - our sins are the one thing between us and the Kingdom of God --

individually we have an obligation to come out of sin - responsibility to the whole nation, family - for God or for the adversary - attitude, preparation - circumcision of our hearts - desperate need for Jesus Christ - the Bible is a map to the wilderness and a guide to the promised land - step back in awe at how far we have come, and in how far we have to go.

spiritual laws/physical laws (scripture of creation) - 2 databases = PROOF OF GOD - experience the evidence, the truth - the physical is a manifestation of the spiritual - active, living, immutable laws - the physical cannot understand/explain the spiritual - the natural/carnal is a shadow on the spiritual - enmity vs. God - no shadow of turning - an occlusion (occlude - conceal, hide, or obscure; to close, shut, or block) of the truth -- inclusion vs. occlusion -- the same yesterday, today, tomorrow - James 1:17 no variableness, neither shadow of turning - ONE WAY - present determined by the future vs. present determined by the past - the Vision - we are allowed to spend our days with the future - the opportunity is too rare and important to be wasted.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [5:36 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 6](#)

THE ANCIENT FUTURE - the FAMILY OF GOD - the God-Father, God-Son, God-Wife (Bride, Helpmate), God-Children - God = first principle - first cause (source) - unified field theory answered - creation (H7218, 7223; 4416,4413, 4412, 746) upheld - Firstfruits (orig. transl. of vulg. "primitiae" Ex 33:16) - FIRST cause, fruits, family; taught first hand (from the original,producer or source, direct); first light (day star) - collective yet individual consciousness - Mind going where no one has gone before - General Assembly, Church of the Firstborn - Ministry of Reconciliation - the beginning, the end, THE ONE who is many - order to chaos - THE TEN - accountable to God and the Family - we don't belong to this world; we belong to God, the Family of God.

God became human in order that every human being may become God - no one can know the divine reality except by means of God's own self-knowledge - we actually share God's self-knowledge in and through the Holy Spirit - we know God from within - we share in God's own self-knowledge - we have received the Spirit of God so that we may know the gifts of God - God is knower, known, and knowing -- Ye are Gods (H430); Micah 4:5; Psalm 138:1, 136:2, 135:5, 97:7, 95:3, 86:8, 82:6 - Saviours Ne 9:27; Ob 1:21.

the Way (H5641 "CATHAR" secret); Deut 29:29 - Alchemist - Philosophers STONE = Christ the Word (base metals into gold) - TouchSTONE = Christ's righteousness - precious corner stone (tried); Eph 2:20; Isa 28:16 - Jewels, precious stones, many colours - reflected (G541) brightness; Heb 1:3; Prov 4:18 - Ezek 1:28 cut to a brilliance by God's two-edged sword, His Word (H3313, 5051, 5050, 3368, 3365, 215, 216, 2987, 2989) - Zech 9:16 stones of a crown - polish (H1508, 1305, 2404, 7044, 7043), facets (personality) - gems, light, reflection - developing your own personal spectrum.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [5:32 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 7](#)

Religion:

- * the fundamental driving force of Humankind;
- * the determinant force in guiding one's life, beliefs and actions;
- * the search for the Absolute - Intellectual Intelligence;
- * the hunger in Man's Soul for imprintation;
- * the Essence of Being - Learning and Serving;
- * the expression of one's Heritage and Identity.

SPIRITUALITY as "experience," a direct knowledge of absolute Spirit in the here and now - and as "praxis," a knowledge that transforms the way I live out my life in this world - spirituality lets meaning flow into daily life - spirituality is a way of being -- RELIGION brings out the "intellectual dimension" of spirituality, when it seeks to understand and express the

original experience in words and concepts, and then it brings out the "social dimension," when it makes the experience a principle of life and action for a community - translated into everyday living, religion becomes spirituality; institutionalized it becomes "a religion" - our religious instinct as human beings is a thirst for meaning - an encounter with mystery, an insight through which our restless search finds rest, a dynamic kind of rest, a sense of belonging that urges us on with new longing - the core of religion - our very life is a quest, a questioning -- God is the reference point of our belonging - "I belong," "Here I find my place," "This is it," and, at the same time, "Here I am" -- THEOLOGY is the effort to understand what religion implies - penetration into the unnameable mystery [source BTU].

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [5:29 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 8

a new vision of reality: (spiritual/physical) opening the "door" to God, "form" of doctrine - $E=MC^{10}$ (eternity = man x 10C); Einstein thought up an entirely new "shape" for reality itself, $E=MC^2$, and opened the "door" to the physical universe - looking forward to the past - reconciliation - the reclamation of mind, restoration, restitution - mastery of marriage, of life, of self - the rediscovery of the sacred - fidelity to God's service - vigilance against human weakness - aware of the obligations placed on us as we wait for the return of Christ and the restitution of all things.

righteousness = used of him/her whose way of thinking, feeling, and acting is wholly conformed to the will of God - integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness - governed by the Spirit of God - calm and joyful trust in God as parent -- high-demand faith vs. low-demand faith - study vs. ritual -- inner discipline - physical/spiritual nourishment - Col 1:5-6 recognizing the truth, the calling - Ezek 24:24 "sign" - Psalm 98:1-2 "proof" - Isa 42:6, 43:12 - "new song" Psalm 35, 40:3; Isa 12:1-6 - Isa 43:12 "ye are my witnesses" - worthy of the Family Name - active, blessed, endless in the coming Kingdom of God - a spiritual house, an Holy priesthood, established in the present truths, built on a sure foundation - we are strangers in a strange land - our viewpoint is different - turn from, resist, overcome, and choose the Mind and Government of God - change of mind and direction - we have to change our views and actions to have TRUE LIFE, away from, and out of, the false life of this world - come out of the world (the mass, the many) - mass communication, entertainment, etc. - the social mass, the unsacred mass - feeding the carnality - prophecy (as indicant) is a tool - it can help us prepare for the future, or it can become a self-fulfilling trap.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [5:23 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 9

hell as a concept to demonize the church's enemy [-Eileen Paigles, "Origins of Satan"] - ritual cosmology - oppression = hell on earth for certain communities -- loving one another is a better way for promoting religion; the brotherhood of man vs. religious terror -- war as a way of life, a mental attitude -- us vs. them -- warriors; warrior identity - to make war, a religious experience - the righteous cause; spirituality in human terms -- warrior alliances, brotherhood on the lowest level -- incursions into the mental battlefield; designed to provoke - ideological objectives - holy crusades of man's making - the best of violence, justified -- in reality, war without winners - machinations to enable machine war - the darker recesses of renegade humanity - political benefits - the vilification of opponents - dynamics of the system priority -- advanced does not equate progression of spirit - advanced (retrograde view component) enabler of base humanity - the SAGE are war criminals of the highest order - the systemic life embrace, lead to believe -- the system will either be dismantled (life) or destroyed (death), the choice is ours to make.

God of our salvation - satisfied with the goodness of thy house - keep and strengthen us - increase our faith with your council and instruction - the form of sound doctrine - we thank you for understanding - the knowledge of the Holy - for the honour and privilege to incline our ears to wisdom - to stand in Thy counsel - to abide with thee, to walk with thee - within Thy Law - to sing with gratitude in our hearts - thank-you for your increase - we pray for the humility, faith, and strength to accept the responsibility that you have given us - God of mercy, God of all comfort, God of our salvation - nourish us in the words of faith and good doctrine - to continue in the faith, grounded and settled.

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [5:18 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 10

Furnishing the Mind - Tabernacle 07 articles of furniture:

- * Brazen Altar - sacrifice - repentance of sins;
- * Laver (of Brass) - mirrors - Holy Spirit, water;
- * Candlestick - beaten Gold - overcoming, COG;
- * Shewbread Table - fine flour, 12 loaves - revelation, truth;
- * Altar of Incense - prayer - humility, prayer;
- * Ark Covenant - 10C, Aaron's Rod, Shewbread - law, authority;
- * Mercy Seat - solid gold, seat of learning - Throne of God.

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [5:15 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 11

Ambassadors of love and of the highest thought - knowing that the interests of other human beings are inextricably linked with our own - no longer can we base our existence on our individual happiness - our true salvation and happiness lie in seeing everyone else's interests as equal to our own - to achieve that requires acknowledging that one's defense system (individualism, ego) cannot bring that happiness, instead, it only creates what one is trying to defend oneself against (heartache, loneliness) - but out of our belief in our intrinsic guilt, we have created this existence of a suffering world trying to find a replacement for God in it - the more we seek salvation outside that, the more tragic our life becomes - we can never find the limitless in this limited material experience, and our fears will keep us stuck there unless we transform our fears into a pathway to love - repentance, forgiveness of all past sins, washed clean through Baptism - heaven waits behind fear's gate (broad is the way and wide is the gate).

the Holy Relationship - whereby we become accountable and responsible for our own inner world, rather than trying to change or blame the outer world for feeling the way we do - when we are fully accountable, and engaged in the Holy Relationship, it becomes alive and real because we are no longer in relationship with our self and our needs - we're actually in relationship [with Christ], in a vital, exciting, passionate and creative union, rather than living within the smallness of replaying our past in a dull, boring, stagnant and vicious cycle - it is imperative that we move beyond healing the self, to healing the world. -- [based on Shared Vision Magazine, Mar.98, "Lessons in Love", A Course in Miracles]

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [5:12 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Mammon or Messiah: MM Book 1 Chapter 4-17

[Mammon or Messiah: MM Book 1 Chapter 4-17](#)

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [5:11 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 12

since at most one faith can be true, it follows that human beings are extremely liable to believe firmly and honestly in something untrue in the field of revealed religion (the many are deceived) - obedience required for a good understanding (a good understanding have they who OBEY His commandments) - the New Physics = the deeper philosophical implications of science - the finitude of time (covering eternity) - space-time (only) records a body of truth - spatiotemporal generations, [1. existing in both space and time 2. of space-time] written on the fabric, authored and encoded, growth rings, time frames - the quantum code of space-time - time the mechanism, space the medium of recording.

Universal Grid - energy/matter - "golden wire woven into the fabric" (the threads, string theory) - spiritual-eternal woven into the fabric of space-time - the "Einstein-DeSitter Universe" - DeSitter surrounds and touches our universe at every point, another dimension - a potential barrier between our continuum and DeSitter Space (extreme energy, matter density 10^{93} g/cm³; ie. water = 1g/cm³ at freezing) -- the shifting texture of empty space, the complex network of transmutations [a breach or puncture of the large potential barrier of DeSitter Space might result in a "supernova from experimentation" (particle physics, quantum mechanics, accelerator use of increased energies, experimentation from high-energy physics, ie. +/- 20TBeV) - transition to DeSitter Space (plugging into) "termination of existence" threat to the Earth, local system to 50LY].

A "white hole" window into the primordial energies - monopolar window into DeSitter Space - always goes towards crunch, opens and closes, control mechanism built into space-time - larger events ie., quasars, galaxies exploding, monopolar, one single jet coming out - smaller events bipolar, two-jets coming out ["Quantum Tunneling Towards An Exploding Universe" article, Apr.86, Journal "Nature", Theoretical Physics] - physicists willing to take the risks - "Holy Quest" research for truths, answers - multi-dimensional physics.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [5:03 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 13

the Universe contains the principle of its order within itself - the Universe contains within itself the reason for its own existence - influences not restrained by time - "God does not play dice" [Einstein] - Earth the future home of God's Throne -- "Crystal Ball" singularity not apparent to the observer - lens through which the universe appears uniform and expanding in all directions - "Empyrean" [1. the highest heaven; specf. a) among the ancients, the sphere of pure light or fire; b) among christian poets, the abode of God 2. the sky; the celestial vault; firmament] -- the Singularity = the distinction between matter, energy and thought.

God spreadeth out the heavens as a tent (11 dimensions, goat's hair) to dwell in - God dwells within his creation (10 curtains of fine linen covered by the 11 of goat's hair) - within the sphere of the universe - a cube within the sphere - God inhabits eternity but can occupy time, but is not limited by time (timeless) - the universe (metagalaxy, the measurable material universe) as we know it is the surface of God's realm (space-time surface of a spiritual-eternal universe) and is an extension of, and sustained by, that realm (God is holding it in being by His physical laws, His scripture of creation, and His Holy Spirit, His very agency) - space-time is rooted in and draws nourishment from the spiritual-eternal.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:57 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 14](#)

the first instant of the "big bang" (creation of space, matter, time), where space was infinitely shrunken, [not shrunken - did not yet exist, the instant of creation happened upon the totality of the surface of God's realm, the spiritual universe and expanded out not from a singular point but from a singular boundless surface] represents a boundary or edge in time at which space ceases to exist [eternity = time beyond the horizon] - physicists call such a boundary a "singularity" - space is inextricably linked to time, and as space stretches and shrinks, so does time - just as the big bang represents the creation of space, so it represents the creation of time - neither space nor time can be extended back through the initial singularity [the spiritual-eternal universe].

gravity is a universal force, acting between all material bodies in the cosmos - Einstein's idea of curved space-time [covering the spherical singularity] explains gravity - the force of gravity powers all large-scale cosmic phenomena - the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics (order to disorder with time in isolated systems) coupled with gravity (in the expanding universe, the cosmic material comes under the influence of the cosmological gravitational field, the cumulative gravity of the rest of the universe) opens the way for the injection of order into the cosmic material by the gravitational field - the expanding universe (temperature differentials) is capable of creating order where none existed before (the universe started out with a highly ordered, low entropy, gravitational field, smooth and uniform, containing immense potential for generating complexity).

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:54 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 15](#)

when it comes to explaining the universe, gravity is the key - gravity stretches or distorts space and time - rather than thinking of the galaxies as moving apart through space, astronomers prefer to think of the space between galaxies as stretching (elastic space-fabric) - intergalactic space is being inflated - astronomers believe, however, that there is no edge or surface to the universe, and no privileged centre - based on the fact that space can bend, Einstein argued that space can connect up to itself in a variety of unexpected ways - the curved surface of the earth can be used as an analogy - the earth's surface is finite in area but unbounded - similarly space could be finite in volume, but without edge or boundary - mathematical shape called a "hypersphere" - Einstein's hyperspherical cosmos.

the physical laws are purely a low-temperature phenomenon - as the temperature of matter is raised, so the varied forces that act upon it begin to merge their identity until, at the staggering temperature of $10^{32}K$ absolute, all the forces of nature should merge into a "single superforce" [spiritual interface] with a remarkably simple mathematical form, a single descriptive scheme - all the many subatomic particles lose their identities, all their varied characteristics (convergence to simplicity) - in the unlimited temperatures of the singularity [the interface between natural and supernatural], only the superforce would have operated - the current differentiated forces and particles emerged as the universe cooled - thus the state of the universe, the laws of physics and the constituents of matter all started out in an exceedingly simple form. -- [Notes 14,15] [physics based on "God and the New Physics", author Paul Davies, with [inserts]]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:51 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 16](#)

an alternative picture vs. quark theory (elementary building blocks), permitted by quantum theory, is that there are no elementary particles at all - instead every particle (at least every subnuclear particle) is made up of every other - no particle is elementary or primitive, but each contains something of the identity of the others - the idea of a system of particles generating themselves in a self-consistent loop of explanation - quanta functioning as one [one quantum family] - string vibration [harmony] transmutations. -- [based on Scientific American]

the 4th dimension TIME is 3-DIMENSIONAL - L motion, B location, H event - the duration (entire period of existence of the known universe; finite duration; the physical expression of infinity) and the continuum (the period of existence of the quanta; the physical expression of eternity) -- time is the Desitter LBH "quantifier of potential" (the quantum limit, the bounds; to determine or express the quantity of existence) used to measure all other desitter LBH results - the spatiotemporal (existing in both space and time; of space-time) particles - the quanta (the physical monadic expression; the flavors and colors) - the quantum reSONance - the "quantity" or "quantum" (a specified quantity) of vibration - spherical harmonics - the potential expression.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:48 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

[Mammon or Messiah research](#)

Saturday, October 17, 2009

[The Ancient Future: Open Notes 17](#)

the speed of light is the standard of measure - time is photonic - light a quanta of electromagnetic energy having both particle and wave properties outside of the singularity boundary [the event horizon into Desitter - the spiritual monad interface - infinity (without limit, without bounds) - time beyond the horizon; the vanishing point - not space-time-corporeal existence but infinite-eternal-spiritual existence] having no charge or mass but possessing momentum and energy (photon; binding force) -- a physical reflection of the spiritual (to express or show, to give back an image or likeness, mirrored, reproduce, to bend or throw back) - the universe made after the image and likeness ("let us make man in our image and after our likeness") of the spiritual universe - God reproducing the spiritual universe and the God Family (God reproducing himself through man) - spiritual to physical/spiritual.

the universe knows itself by us - our minds, our consciousness - the universe is now the multiverse - the physical reflection of the spiritual - God is knower, known, and knowing - an expansion of mind - the universe is God's agency, a physical matrix (a brain as such) - 100B galaxies (ea. 100B stars) and growing; 10tBB stars - dendriform - our brain is of the same model - quantum neurotransmitters - speed of thought - light the physical determinant, Holy Spirit the spiritual determinant -- the microcosm mirrors the macrocosm and vice-versa = the meta_cosm.

universe itself germinated (15B years ago; light horizon), growing (singularity a seed) - monad nutrition (Holy Spirit, Water of Life, upholds ALL things [Heb 1:3]) - roots deep into the singularity - (as the circle of knowledge grows, so does its outside edges of ignorance) = SONA (universal growth - uncontained vs. contained) - outside edges (2 Peter 2:4 tartaros [hell], Jude 1:6 zophos [darkness], separated from truth) -- mesh screen - mesh [MDu maesche, ODu maske, IE base mezg-, to knit,entwine; (MEZGNOSIS; spiritual knowledge, creation process from within; INWIT) OE max, a net 1 any of the open spaces of a net, screen, etc. 2 a net or network 3 anything that entangles, snares, entraps] -- to knit, entwine (string theory).

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:38 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 18

space-time viscoelastic -- spiritual water -- the universe expanding but the majority of the mesh screen (the open spaces) has not budded as yet - the potential is ours - the mask of God.

10 dimensions - fine linen.

11 dimensions - goats hair covering (singularity hide; hair follicles).

12 particles - ea. monad dodecahedron (12 plane faces, ea. a pentagon; gem facets; 60 symmetries; 12 vibrations - the Tree of Life has 12 kinds of fruit) -- gem_monad expression - the constituents of matter -- 6 quarks, 6 leptons, 5 binding forces -- dodecagon surrounds monad.

cube (building block) = physical LBH (24 symmetries) 12 dodecahedrons; (12 gates; 12 foundations - wall 144 cubits [12 x 12]) surrounding ea. monad (the 13th), the crystal river, the interface vibration.

ea. string, 12 harmonics - 12 cubes (144 dodecahedrons, 12 monads); quantum family -- the specified quantity of vibration = expressed quanta (particle) - the quantum reSONAnce.

ea. time matrix 12,000 cubes; (the continuum) period of existence of the quanta, [144,000 dodecahedrons, 12,000 monads] - ea. mesh screen sheet a potential of 1000 strings -- $LBH = 1,728,000,000,000 = 1.728T \text{ cubes}^3$.

Revelation 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, [was there] the tree of life, which bare twelve [manner of] fruits, [and] yielded her fruit every month (every cycle; time): and the leaves of the tree [were] for the healing of the nations.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:31 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 19

speed of gravity EXCEEDS the speed of light, ie., sun light 08 min to the earth, yet the earth pulled by the sun to its present position not its position 08 minutes ago -- gravity propulsion will be able to exceed the light-speed barrier -- possible factor of 1M-1Bx.

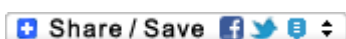
dendriform universe - galactic clusters = leaves on branches - 2 trees to 12 -- monad/pixel comparison; dot pitch, pixel depth (24-bit, etc.) -- gravity wells (galaxies, suns, planets, etc.), dot pitch increases; active matrix from singularity -- black hole evolution into an elementary particle [string theory] - regression into a single point (not an elementary particle but into Desitter upon exceeding singularity boundary parameters) into "the golden thread" - black hole "mazers" microwave stream (laser), jet into space; squeezed out; equal pressure from all sides into center; microwaves expelled; exceeds the speed of light ?? -- event horizon; monad fusion ??, gravity ++ and/or monad binding (blurring, smearing of matter/energy) into monad fusion -- uniform background radiation NOT "big bang" residue; monad signature -- gravity = monad effect, flow (density = gravity).

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:27 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 20](#)

time = motion (quantum vibration, motion) - [early greek language; time "chronos, tyros (generation of the spherical shape into aeon (volumetric space-time))" - the entirety - micro into macrocosm -- a-ether = aeon (intelligently acting energy)] -- monad theory (HS) -- speed of light = monad frequency; at the speed of light, time stops; motion lock to sympathetic monadic wave field (photon wave properties, momentum, energy), perpetual motion, linear propulsion; speed constant -- light is beyond time -- gravity (the opposite ??) = actualized space/time density; pixels activated; depth determines gravity intensity (also monad transmutation to particles+ flow to monad-to-monad existence; ea. monad an address, "monad_dress" - particle activation = dressed) -- time exists +/- in relation to monad_frequency (the singularity pulse); there is a time constant (an activation, matter/energy generational constant); time constant to universe growth; red-shifted in all directions due to time constant vantage (same if viewed from another vantage point; (A from B, C from B) [singularity rs C rs B rs A] - expansion increases in relation to distance from singularity; gravity less; monad activation (pixel depth) less; develops with time -- expansion held in check by developing universe; gravity check; universe will not expand into non-existence, nor will it collapse in on itself; the universe will expand into eternity to development ++ (fabric of space repair mechanism built-in vs. rips, tears) -- monad = neuron.

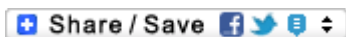


Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:19 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 21](#)

the "self-reproducing inflationary universe" - fabric of space the "mother sheet" (parent universe) - extended branching of inflationary bubbles - "trees of righteousness" - fractal universe, a new cosmology - time travel - 0-point, Desitter matrix - resonance match - speed of thought - pulled through the Desitter matrix -- the spiritual harmonic - the heavens bowed - Desitter harmonics -- diaphanous-monadism - the singularity points (the "big-bang" is still here).

SONA/genomic matrix - the biologix spirit = life in all of it's diversity (nous, spirit; Heb nephesh, breath); [authored developmental evolution, "devol" - developing, encoding, compiling, adapting, the code of life, the quantum code of space-time] ["devolution" - delegation of power, authority, duties, responsibilities by a central government to local governing units - agents of creation - created creators, the created creating].



Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:17 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

[The Ancient Future: Open_Notes 22](#)

Creators of the First Estate - Lucifer, "god of this world," 1/3 Angels - Theory of Evolution 1/2 correct - authored/developed, not just natural selection; environmental adaptation written in - 1. environment 2. chemicals of life 3. code, blueprints 4. cell(s), to existing life forms (from the beginning), to new code, to new levels of development, versions - university of life -- extinctions (God's eraser) vs. wrong directions, non-compliance with God's directives - punctuated equilibrium -- dinosaurs (the fossil dragons) - 70% life extinction 65M years ago - an asteroid - man the pinnacle of First Estate directives - "man's evolutionary tree" - ultimate development "the image" to receive "the very essence of God, the Holy Spirit" - God reproducing Himself - deep resentment amongst the "creators" - rose in revolt - refused to bow down to "their" creation [they were mistaken in this idea; all are equal] - "War in Heaven" massive destruction - "I will be like the Most High" not "my creation" - Lucifer and his host defeated, cast down to the earth - Satan "adversary, that old dragon" (Gr. drakon, lit. the seeing one) - author of non-directive life forms.

Genesis 1:1 God re-created the earth, as it existed, the directive and non-directive life forms {God is truth} - man given the chance to replace Satan - man failed necessitating "the Word" to put on the nature of man (God becoming part of His creation, giving up His Divinity, to qualify, to become the sacrifice for man (penalty of sin = death; the Creators Life more than equal to the sum of the creation), to pay the price for man's sin, rebellion, to enable man to qualify, to become part of the God Family, the Government of God, to become Creators to finish the Universe (Heb. 2 "all things put under him") -

adversarial nature designed by the "adversary" - adversarial nature to be changed upon the return of Christ as Messiah - "healing in His wings," "the restitution of all things."



Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:11 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Mammon or Messiah: MM Book 1 Chapter 3-13

[Mammon or Messiah: MM Book 1 Chapter 3-13](#)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:20 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Friday, October 16, 2009

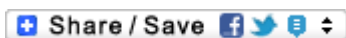
Reclamation of Mind: Open_Notes 1

reclaim vt. [ME reclaimen; OFr reclamer; L reclamare, to cry out against] 1. to rescue or bring back (a person or people) from error, vice, etc., to ways of living or thinking regarded as right; reform. 2. to make (wasteland, desert, etc.) capable of being cultivated or lived on, as by filling, ditching, or irrigating. 3. to recover (useful materials) from waste products. 4. [Obs.] to tame or subdue.] - reclaim vt. [to claim back; demand the return or restoration of; try to get back] -- the [Reclamation] of Mind n. [Fr reclamation; L reclamatio] 1. a reclaiming or being reclaimed; esp., the recovery of wasteland, desert, etc. by ditching, filling, or irrigating. 2. the process or industry of obtaining useful materials from waste products.

Mind - Mental (biosphere, garden) Composition, Landscape, Climate:

Mental Composition: metamorphic (pressure), sedimentary (deposit), igneous (fire)(spiritual) rock:

- * Metamorphic - change of character, form, nature; transformation; the deeper the awareness, the more pressure (wisdom and responsibility) is felt and the harder (ark; to hold depth of being; tempered) you become; deep seated, pressing needs and wants.
- * Sedimentary - formed by deposit of sediment, layered; some types of learning are prerequisites to other kinds of learning - the sequence of instruction; layered (historical, personal) experience.
- * Igneous - modified by intense heat, volcanic action; personal (emotional) crisis, trauma.
- * Sand - eroded or crushed rock - shifting sands, winds of change; at the behest of outside elements, agencies.
- * Minerals - veins of thought; cognition wiring; needed for proper growth and functioning; vessel (ark) composition (usually crystalline) to hold "depth of being" - Psalms 31:12 I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel - 2 Timothy 2:20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood (mazer) and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.
- * Gems - character development, traits (precious, semi-precious); crystallized learning, to give a definite form to (the world's broken symmetry); crystal = developed forms bounded by definitely oriented plane surfaces that are harmonious with their internal structures; crystalline structure variations; crystal system = any of the seven groups classified on the basis of the relationship of their crystallographic axis (imaginary lines of reference used to describe the crystal planes).
 - facet - [fr. facette, face; sides, aspects of personality, character; the small, polished plane surfaces of a cut gem] cut by the two-edged sword to reflect God's light.
 - gem [L gemma, a swelling, bud, precious stone 1 a cut and polished gemstone or pearl 2 anything prized for its beauty and value, esp. if small and perfect of its kind 3 a highly valued person].
 - gemara[Heb-Aram gemara; Aram gemara, lit. study, learning; verb root gmr, to finish].



Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:57 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Reclamation of Mind: Open_Notes 2

Mind (Spiritual Garden of Eden) watered (nourished) becomes fertile for life - mind (unnourished) = drought (mind baked/consumed from the wild fires within) - every human being must ignite the spark (gift at conception - the human spirit, mind) - but you must control the fire (tongue of fire -instinct/passions) or the fires in the mind of man will consume you - mind must be refined (freed from impurities/polished) and tempered (to bring to the right degree of hardness by heating and cooling) - heating and cooling achieved by the "physical/spiritual fires" and the "water of life" - knowledge and responsibility (God's living active Laws) feeds, nourishes the mind to achieve the proper temperature for refinement - anneal vt. annealer n. [ME anelen; OE anaelan, to burn; an-, on + aelan, to burn; al, ael, fire; 1 Obs. to fire or glaze, as in a kiln 2 to heat (glass, metals, etc.) and then cool them slowly to prevent brittleness 3 to strengthen and temper (the mind, will, etc.)].

Refined/Tempered Mind = Fiery Stones (Mynd) = Spiritual Alchemy -- Alchemist - Philosopher's STONE (Christ the Word); TouchSTONE = Christ's righteousness (our example - any test or criterion for determining genuineness or value) -- Alchemy - its chief aims were to turn base metals into gold and silver (character) - 1 to discover the elixir of perpetual youth (water of life) 2 a method or power of transmutation; esp. the seemingly miraculous change of a thing into something better (beget, to acquire; begotten)].

Mind must open and become a vessel (Ark) for "depth of being" - the more depth achieved, the more refined/tempered the vessel must become to hold the depth (God mind/wisdom) and the weight (dominion/responsibility) - man making himself god (becoming a law unto himself) ignites the wild fires (instinct/passions) which out of control consume the mind - man's passions released (becoming law themselves) burns hot in the mind of man and consumes (the vessel becomes brittle) - the less the refinement, the more shallow the depth of being, and the less from the Fountain of Life he/she can drink to quench the fires of the mind and therefore the mind is less tempered and nourished.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:54 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Reclamation of Mind: Open_Notes 3

Mental Landscape:

- * Terrafirma - firm earth, good earth, solid foundation (composition).
- * Terracotta - baked earth (pottery, earthen vessels).
- * Terraincognita - 1. an unknown land; unexplored territory; 2. an unknown or unexplored field of knowledge.
- * Tectonics = the art of making things that have both beauty and usefulness - construction, building, architecture (terraforming); plates and layers of (spiritual) rock.
- * Plate Tectonics - forces of (crustal structure) deformation - molten rock (emotional fires within).

- * Deep-seated eruptions (urges, emotions) - volcano's.
- * Intrusion n. intrusive adj. - [forced (invasion) into or between other (solid) rocks while in a molten state; 2 formed of such rock; the body of rock resulting from such invasion].
- * Earthquakes (shaken in mind) vs. mental terrain, landscape.
- * Chasm - a deep surface crack, abyss, any break or gap (a wide divergence of feelings, sentiments, interests, etc.; rift) - split along my fault lines.
- * Caverns - gaps, voids, emptiness within.
- * Tsunami (waves of thought, ie. assumption, doubt, anxiety, grief, etc.)
- * Oceans of the mind - mental capacity, flowing undercurrents of mind - life support system.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:48 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Reclamation of Mind: Open Notes 4

Mental Climate:

- * Sun = light of the mind, spirit in man, (+ Holy Spirit > intensity^).
- * Atmosphere of the mind - water (thought, cognition).
- * Watering the mind - nutrient release; roots deep > knowledge, understanding, wisdom - good earth GRAM (Genetic Random Access Memory) - to develop (grow) character.
- * Firm earth - instincts, emotions - GROM (Genetic Read Only Memory).
- * Air masses (attitudes, frame of mind, outside influences, etc.)
- * Cold frontal systems (heavier air, unreceptive, hard).
- * Warm frontal systems (lighter air, inviting, open, kind).
- * Pressure gradients - wind speed (influences, events, worries, etc.), currents, trade winds, high altitude jet streams (nervousness, pulling the top of the mind, spinning).
- * Low pressure system (low tolerance, mental pressure) - cloud, storms - pressure falling - shallow/deep depression - anticlockwise rotation.
- * High pressure system (high tolerance, mental pressure) - clear, sunny - clockwise rotation - running in tandem.
- * Increasingly agitated, heightened mental state - global warming (emotions; ie., frustration, anger) - adiabatic lapse rate - change of temperature with height - determines convection (emotional) intensity.
- * Moisture content (humidity, thought ingredients, density of mind).
- * Dew point (condensation of thought, emotional awareness, attention).
- * Condensation nuclei (stimuli, bits and pieces, fragments of knowledge) - particulate pollution.
- * Cold air, less moisture capacity (closed mind).
- * Warm air, high moisture capacity (open mind).
- * Condensation (heat engine).
- * MIND STORMS (differing intensities).
- * Clouds - 13 types, 3 altitude levels.
- * Clouds - partly (thin) scattered, scattered; partly cloudy (thin broken), cloudy (broken); thin overcast, overcast. (ME cloude, clude, orig., mass of rock, hense mass of cloud < OE clud, mass of rock).

- cumulus, cu - everyday thought, fair-weather
- stratocumulus, sc - multiple thought, flowing together
- cumulus fractus, cf - thought fractured by the winds
- stratus, st - low pressure, overcast
- nimbostratus, ns - low pressure, heavy overcast
- towering cumulus, tc - thought convection, emotions
- cumulonimbus, cb - mind storm > reaching through all levels
-
- altocumulus, ac - everyday thought
- altocumulus castellanus, acc - thought convection, castles of the mind, on the defensive
- altostratus, as - low pressure, thickening, overcast
-
- cirrus, ci - everyday thought, high winds
- cirrocumulus, cc - high-level instability
- cirrostratus, cs - advance of weather system, halo

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:40 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Reclamation of Mind: Open Notes 5

Mental Climate (con't):

- * CB, lightening (flashes of anger) - wind shear (force, violence).
- * CB, thunderstorms - anvil of the mind - overflowing, outreaching.
- * Tornado (devil's finger) - wind vortex, narrow focus destruction; (rolling anger forced down into action).
- * Hurricane/T (massive depression, anger) - wide focus destruction.
- * Storm surge - force of depression, push, flooding the boundaries.
- * Gentle rain - (drops of thought, nourishment).
- * Rain storms - (overwhelming, cleansing or destructive results).
- * Floods - (without reason, washout, uncontrolled, swept away).
- * Snow - (rigid thought, unyielding, cold, insulating the mind).
- * Ice storm, freezing rain - (bending, hvy weight, criticism, accusation).
- * Hail - (layers of denial produced by emotional turmoil, destructive).
- * Sand storm - (eroded, crushed rock) atmosphere choked.
- * Dust storm - (firm, good earth eroded) atmosphere choked.
- * Fog - a large mass of water vapour condensed to fine particles at or just above the surface; thick, obscuring mist 2 a similar mass of smoke, dust, etc. obscuring the atmosphere - (a state of mental dimness and confusion; blurred, bewildered state; to surround or cover with fog; perplexed, clouded).
- * Clear-air turbulence - violent, unseen, irregular commotion, disorder, turmoil, unruly or boisterous behaviour - random fluctuations in wind velocity.
- * Tidal forces - ebb and flow of the mind - undercurrents of thought.
- * Sunburst - the sudden appearance of sunlight, as through a break in the clouds - (sudden illumination, flash of light).
- * Rainbow - an arc or ring containing the colours of the spectrum in consecutive bands; formed in the sky by the refraction, reflection, and dispersion of light in rain or fog (fogbow).

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:36 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Reclamation of Mind: Open Notes 6

Mental Climate (con't):

- * Compacted snow (solid ice, time) glaciers etching the surface.
- * Chilly disposition - hot tempered - reason clouded - winds of change - to wet, moisten the appetite - bright eyes - genial climate.
- * Boiling up inside (emotional intensity, instability, convection).
- * Invective firestorm consuming all opposition.
- * Warming up to someone, to a subject, etc. (snow melting).
- * Weathering the storm > clarity (clear wx).
- * Weathering the mind - wearing down, erosion.
- * Weather map, forecasts (daily, long range, projection models); (batten down the hatches, window shutters, preparation, etc.).
- * Huge volcanic eruptions - ash, smoke - cooling - ice ages.
- * Sea level reduced by water locked into huge ice sheets.
- * Deep valleys created by glaciers - mountains ground down.
- * Polar ice caps - key role in driving deep ocean currents - water chilled - the cold water sinks to form a deep water current > equator - crucial role in moving heat around and regulating our climate - threatened by global warming.
- * Global warming - when surface currents change they affect the whole biosphere - trade winds, rainfall, drought, increased intensities of storms, etc.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:31 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Reclamation of Mind: Open Notes 7

mematrix (memory matrix), mematrices - memoro-[genetics] - mem[gene] - cubisian six-sided code, 12 i/o gates - memory building blocks - 5-sense, 7-basic-intelligence (12) + 6th sense (singularity) physical/spirit - patterns of [inheritance] memory - memorosomes [chromosomes] - memgenes - memgenes occur in linear fashion along the memorosome - they themselves are linear structures - STRINGS OF THOUGHT.

Meme:

- [meem] anything copied, ie., culture, ads (infections), songs, education, religion (virus of the mind), etc.;
 - idea's, behaviours, habits, etc., like passed on gene's;
 - thought savers;
 - the movement of knowledge;
 - meme's active, all of science meme's;
 - units of culture, self-replicating, human agency, human utility;
 - symbolic meanings; beauty, style, slang;
 - memetic evolution, development;
 - meme's in charge; masking of influence, power, control;
 - [rote n. a fixed, mechanical way of doing something; routine; (thinking, meme) - by rote, by memory alone, without understanding or thought; to answer by rote];
 - replicators - genes, memes > novel design;
 - individual immune response (filters);
 - meme's and meme copying apparatus - meme's copying themselves, ie., computers writing software, the Internet, etc.;
 - [blinded by the stream (learning by books, etc., perspective, sense of history being lost by instant access to info) - no need to retain knowledge - there to retrieve again, anytime];
 - meme's forcing the gene's (brain) to do their bidding, forcing the hand - yet a symbiotic relationship;
 - memeticist;
 - thoughts (creating form, projection of oneself in that direction, creating our own reality, design process);
 - responsibility lies with the meme's.
- ["Meme" based on NPR, author, professor Susan Blackmore, "The Meme Machine" May.99]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:19 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Reclamation of Mind: Open Notes 8

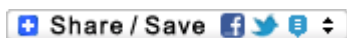
- * Heterogeneous: (a kind, race) differing or opposite in structure, quality, etc., dissimilar - composed of unrelated or unlike elements or parts. [reference to MIND patterns, learning, attitudes, emotions, etc.]
- * Heterogeneity/Blueprint: 01 sequencing reference points; 02 horizontal comparisons.
- * Natural genetic inheritance = free moral agency.
- * Mind Key - triggering mechanism = emotions/GROM.
- * Mind = light waveform [light-bringer = mind-bringer] - lean into the light of the mind (noetic tropism).
- * Mind Shell [physical/spiritual] frequency unique to the individual.
- * Mind/sub-conscience - Mind/conscience - Mind/over-conscience.
- * Mind - intelligence amplitude - knowledge +/- quality/quantity.
- * Physical/Spiritual frequency not in tune - life is fine tuning = SONA.
- * New knowledge/influence - retuning the mind/receptability - variable +/- factors.
- * Superimposition (overlay) of perceptions alter the mind - [religious code, blue print, grid work].
- * Congregation (fellowship) = harmonization +/- emotional fires.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:15 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Reclamation of Mind: Open Notes 9

- * Human brain = hardware for spiritual mind shells - Nine(9) intelligences.
- * Emotions are the glue/binding force, +/- catalysists.
- * Human mind ac/dc (alternating/direct current).
- * Emotional focus/dc - the key to open/close mind partitions (doors).
- * Human mind/parallel - emotions/series.
- * Learning - [spiritual] molecules - building a matrix/intelligences - molecular shells - spiritual molecules of thought.
- * Mind - simplex > complex.
- * Awareness - inward/outward reflection.
- * Each human being is a spiritual reflection of creation in progress.
- * GROM:
 - Motives of behaviour - Religion/GROM enhancer, identity quest;
 - Genetic Inheritance [Nature/Nurture] = GINN/ROM = GROM;
 - Predestination = Genetic Inheritance GINN/ROM [preordination].
- * GRAM:
 - Development from birth to come into tune (music soul) with GROM;
 - the development of the individual/personality traits;
 - Product of heredity/education/society (environment) raised in.
- * GCOV:
 - GROM/Nature + GRAM/Nurture;
 - Individuals of an indivisible race.
- * (immortality)
 - physical = GINN/ROM passed to next generation.
 - spiritual = Mind [GCOV, Human Spirit]; = SONA [GCOV + Holy Spirit].
- * Learning [GRAM] and instinct [GROM] are partners.
- * The process of learning is often initiated and controlled by instinct.
- * Learning is often innately [innately guided humanism] guided by information inherent in the genetic make-up.
- * Most are preprogrammed to learn particular things (to lean to certain subjects, areas) and to learn them in particular ways.
- * Multiple personalities = multiple frequencies influenced by GROM, all unique.
- * Psychic ability/mind reading = ability to fluctuate freely/harmonize frequencies.
- * Astral Projection = wave extension - GROM/GRAM in sympathy.
- * Channeling/Mediums = frequency almost identical/rigid harmonization.
- * Telekinesis/Projection = amplitude/frequency projection.



Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

Reclamation of Mind: Open Notes 10

genetic resonance:

_MBS [mind/body/soul] [physical, spiritual genetics - Human, Holy Spirit] reSONAnce [L resonantia, an echo], expressed as perSONA (the characteristics; the outer personality or facade presented to others by an individual) - SONAnce n. 1a) a sound b) a tune 2 the quality or state of being sonant; SONAnt adj. [L SONAns, sounding, prp. of SONAre, to sound] 1 of sound 2 having sound; sounding - n Phonet. 1 a syllabic consonant 2 a voiced sound -- active (sounding) thought -- music of the soul, paradigm symphony (a harmony of sounds, harmonious composition, an extended composition for full orchestra [ennead mentation] -- [OE swinsian] to sing, make music.

sonant mentation:

(frequency; 1 the condition of being crowded 2 the fact of occurring often or repeatedly) - to express, signal, indicate, or announce; free from defect, normal and healthy; not weak, diseased or impaired; firm and safe, stable, secure; based on truth or valid reasoning; accurate, reliable, judicious, sensible; deep and undisturbed; morally strong, honest, honorable,

loyal > to measure the depth, to investigate, examine, probe, explore >> symposiac mentation (convivial, symposium, a conference, a collection of opinions, free exchange of ideas) >>> sonorous adj. producing or capable of producing sound (SONA), esp. sound of full, deep, or rich quality; reSONAnt 2 full, deep, or rich; said of sound 3 having a powerful, impressive sound; HIGH sounding (HIGH knowledge) - sonority n. quality, state, or instance of being sonorous; reSONance -- SONA = a HIGH SOUNDING vs. a song and dance (talk, esp. an explanation, that is pointless, devious, or evasive), sophism.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:56 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Reclamation of Mind: Open_Notes 11](#)

diapason n. (diapassion = SONA) [Gr symphonia, concord through all the notes] 1 the entire range of a musical instrument or voice 2 the entire range of some activity or emotion, etc. 3 a swelling burst of harmony 4 [Obs.] complete harmony; -- diapause n. a period of delayed development or growth accompanied by reduced (spiritual) metabolism and inactivity -- composition; a putting together, an arraignment of parts to form a unified, harmonious whole - the act of composing, creating by putting together a whole by combination of parts -- compose(d); to put (oneself, one's mind, etc.) in a state of tranquility or repose (to have trust; peace of mind; rest; harmony of form or color); calm; allay -- composer -- compos mentis [L] Law; of soundmind; sane -- resonate; 1 to be reSONAnt; resound 2 to produce resonance; to make resonant, 1 resounding, reechoing 2 producing resonance; increasing intensity of sounds by sympathetic vibration 3 of or in resonance.

DNA may not be a concrete code (definite form, specific) but rather a matrix [a womb, origin; that within which, or within and from which, something originates, takes form, or develops] of codes we might turn on or off through emotion (the mental cry, SONA) -- emotive triggers [love, awareness - actual opening of the mind, aiming the mind, focus (cognition+, healing, etc.); fear, hate, anger > thought chaos, cancer, disease, etc.; trauma, stress] -- generational genetic memory imprint - GROM, GRAM, GCOV - physical, spiritual triggers: subjects, events, persons, etc.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:52 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Reclamation of Mind: Open_Notes 12](#)

ennead(9) mentation (EM) > 10+ mentation matrix (MM)(formative spiritual molecules, cells > dendri-growth; Geol., the rock or earthy material in which a crystal, pebble, fossil, etc. is enclosed or embedded) -- the outer world mirrors the inner conditions of our consciousness -- individual scale > physical, spiritual environment - developmental coding - EM (EQ-IQ) > MM10+ (DNA Matrix Activation; DNAMA = Healing) - EQ (emotional intelligence, quotient) underpinnings of IQ, technical skills - self-awareness (reflection, the key to EQ), empathy, social skills, motivation, etc. - strength vs. stress, impulse - EQ-IQ orchestration (physical and spiritual link) - intellection persuasion - parallel intelligences(9) - knowing and managing one's emotions, the binding of intelligence - listen, feedback, overlay - brilliance, outstanding performance - catalyst to cooperation, collaboration > communitas -- quantifier of potential = SONA expression, integrity (values manifested) - mentation sensors - relationship(s) - paradigm shift.

sensorium n. pl. -ums, -ria, the whole sensory apparatus of the body - realm of non-locality - information - quantum information fields - the human brain as instrument - whisperings from the quantum realm - information from any point in the universe instantly accessible at any other point - coordination of the larger picture - imagination - "imagine that which you cannot imagine" [-Terrance McKenna] - imagineer.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:44 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Reclamation of Mind: Open_Notes 13

"hands-on" touch therapy:

genetic resonance (self, family, mate vs. strangers, practitioners) - mate = exchange of genetics (fluids), spiritual link - resonance environment +/- stress, ie., family, workplace, nature, etc. - a belonging place - mate, family, friends, home, church, community, etc. - healing resonances - bonding, sexual healing - hands on love, concern - sympathetic vibration - reinforcement and prolongation of sona - echo n. [ME ecco, OE swogan, to sound, roar] sympathetic response - sonacate [sonicate vt. to subject (a cell, virus, etc.) to the energy produced by sound waves - sonication n. -sonicator n.] -- prayer (internal and external) and SONA = HEALING (DNA matrix activation - aiming the mind (matrix interface), matrix sounding > sonority) -- the Gift of the Holy Spirit = the SONA lock - bdest link, intertwine (spiritual DNA), the progenitor embrace, safeguard > the expression.

recognize the harmonization of pain and emotion between mates, family and society - empathic (ability to share in another's emotions, thoughts, or feelings) empathy; empathetic -- we have to get beyond pain - pain threshold - pain tolerance can get worn out over time -- suppression only results in further progression of the stress causation over time.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:36 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Friday, October 16, 2009

Reclamation of Mind: Open_Notes 14

the genetic (individual organism) expression of the genome(-ic matrix) [environment (physical-spiritual)] = the genome_environ -- resonance spectrum - similarity in spectrum bands = likeminded -- individual genetic multi-frequencies, multi-wavelengths > spectrum = +/- intensity, +/- narrow, wide (the intensity, SONA of any radiation or motion displayed as a function of frequency, or wavelength = eccles) -- an afterimage; an underlying or pervasive quality of a particular type, (esp. in a work of art or literature, ie., an apocalyptic resonance) = persona -- sona_genetixpec = a continuous range or entire extent (the sona_genetic_specifications), who and what we are.

-- Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it - eccles frequency - ecclesia [< Gr ekklesia, assembly (Heb kahal) < ekkalein, to summon < ek, out + kalein, to call];

-- neccles vibration (necklace - neck-top cephalic computer - a string of beads, jewels, etc., or a chain of gold, silver, etc., worn around the neck as an ornament; SONA adornment, luster; radiance; coloratura (display of skill, singing; harmony));

-- SAGE collar (band, chain, harness; to take hold or control of; seize or capture) vs. SONA necklace.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:24 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Thursday, October 15, 2009

MIND - Paradigm Rhyme: Open_Notes 1

regular recurrence of corresponding ideas - word code currents of thought, internal poetry - (re)establishing contact with oneself, empathy - cognitive therapy - common_place book [a book in which extracts, poems, aphorisms, etc. are copied down for future reference, often together with one's ideas and reflections] -- the Collective Mind / ONE -- the commonality, the foundation, the conclusions -- conceptual (rational, deductive reasoning) framework wrapped in visualization, intuitive conceptualization, and revelation.

settlement (community mind) - responsibility; grounded vs. uprooted - containing the principle of its order within itself (Mind/Holy Spirit) - ingress n. [the act of entering 2 the right or permission to enter 3 a place or means of entering; entrance] - ingression vs. aggression (self) - deeper levels of reality - dedication past oneself - the Prepared Mind - literacy (Word of God, language, science, ie., digital literacy), -- genial adj. [L genialis, of generation or birth < genius, guardian deity; 1. orig. of marriage or procreation 2 promoting life and growth; pleasantly warm, mild, and healthful (a genial climate) 3 cheerful, friendly, and sympathetic, amiable 4 [rare] of or characterized by genius] - erudite adj. [having or showing a wide knowledge gained from reading; learned; scholarly]; erudition n. [learning acquired by reading and study; scholarship] - polymath n. polymathic adj. (great and diversified learning, knowing much) - awareness vs. assumptions, broad conclusions -- Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide [is] the gate, and broad [is] the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:57 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MIND - Paradigm Rhyme: Open_Notes 2

the deep joy, the purity, the integrity and satisfaction of learning - it is about being so fully present, so fully conscious, that awareness is magnified - full alignment of body, mind and spirit vs. an altered state of mind (usurped by the world, society) - ignisfatuus (ignesfatuus) = [a deceptive hope, goal, or influence; delusion] - "the purpose of education is to defend ourselves against the seduction of eloquence" [-Bertrand Russell] [media literacy. critical skills] - we really only have ourselves to learn - to learn about ourselves - perceptual ability: the ability to organize total experience, which is meant to include the many physiological growth experiences that precede what is commonly considered the formal experience of learning - our own natural diversity.

learning capacity (human spirit, Holy Spirit), ability (a steady enhancement of abilities) - the most powerful ingredient = motivation, the vision - knowledge driven and information intensive - mind to mind - reinvent yourself as a destination for new knowledge - future search - networks of association - knowing - individual attitudes index content differently - when in the collective adapt - IntellKIND (intelligence kind) - kindred spirits - a probing mind is a restless one - footloose and fancy free (down to earth) - roaming the mental landscape - Mindwalker (mindwalk) 1 Sam 2:35; Eph 4:17; Phil 3:15 - the knowledge it takes to move with certainty (go with it).

Psalms 26:11 But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me. 12 My foot standeth in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the LORD -- Psalms 94:17 Unless the LORD [had been] my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence. 18 When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up. 19 In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul -- Psalms 119: 59. I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies -- Proverbs 1:10. My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not- 15 My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: -- Proverbs 3:21. My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: 22 So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck. 23 Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:54 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MIND - Paradigm Rhyme: Open_Notes 3

freedom = appreciation of necessity - understanding the nature of the outside world and controlling our reactions and interactions to it - situational intelligence - assimilation of knowledge - knowledge; understanding; wisdom (application) - an enormous difference in what we know and in what we understand - interactive, tailored instruction - facilitators, guides - Consilience: the Unity of Knowledge (Unified Knowledge Theory) - universe of study vs. world of study (viewpoint) - it takes the whole world to tell you who you are -- the CONVIVUENCE, a universe of information - the CONVIVENCIA, a personal pilgrimage (era, time) - the CONVIVIUM, a feast together, learning, enjoying life (knowledge, food, music, contemplation) -- take a survey of your mind, your world - perceptual filters - learn to separate knowledge from noise - signal to noise ratio - theory or belief? - the nature of thought, how it creates reality.

take the question as far as it goes - let it become a cry !! - an aching sound > SONA -- it's all about being taken care of -- for some, suffering is the crucible where faith begins, for others, suffering is where faith ends -- force upon opponents a conversation -- faith vs. modernity -- the message is so so dark that you lose the audience -- mankind has lost its way -- our anti_consciousness - globally pervasive - less and less workable - not prophecy, reality !! -- we have to look within - examine our humanity - a collective sleep-walking - pain or understanding lies ahead of us - mankind has a terminal illness - you have to cure the disease not just attend to the symptoms - the real transformation is individual - all the collective efforts in the historical record to solve the world's problems have failed - only ourselves, our individual being, can stop the progression > the end of love, true love (agape), as opposed to selfish love - what happens to my brother happens to me - are we going to damn our own future?

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:48 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MIND - Paradigm Rhyme: Open_Notes 4

apply reason to very complex issues - statistical picture - select design parameters to fit the picture perfectly - evaluation of many designs necessary - components, ie. (sailing through life): sail must capture the wind to drive forward [open mind] - hull must cut through water with minimum drag [sharp intellect] - keel must provide stability without adding extra weight [character] - width of boat critical variable +/- width - speed vs. stability [path] - single number description of good mathematical design [gate] - enabler of consensus - pull together, get behind the common design - believe.

cross-tabulation analysis - mental maps vs. an ever shifting landscape - re-calibration vs. calibration drift - (people are equations, some complex, some simple - we arrive at answers differently - many variables to arrive at a solution - the "Human Equation" a complex whole) - mathematics - life by the numbers - the fuel of the information age - informatics - the game of numbers - crunching numbers - statistics, strategy - competitive edge, analysis (data reports, statistical relationships). patterns, tendencies are revealed in numbers - percentages - game plan - performance in mathematical terms - ratios - best estimate based on a given set of measurements - precision thinking.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:45 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MIND - Paradigm Rhyme: Open_Notes 5

quantitative variables have to be measured - translated into mathematical knowledge (understanding) - analyse each frame (of mind) - choreography (mind dance); choreograph: to design or plan the movements of a dance, esp. a ballet; to plan an event or complex course of action in careful detail - endurance training - study of motion (thought) - efficiency (shorter, quicker strides more efficient than long, slower strides for long-distance runs) - efficiency very important - small differences very meaningful in the long run - running style (work load) - performance; increasing levels of work - linear progression until threshold (burnout) is reached (exercise: lactate increase until production exceeds body absorption) - body-mind connection - mental performance states, stress, highly focused attentional states - concentration - the peak of

intensity, "the flow" - strategy to concentrate necessary - mental song, harmony (SONA) - switch the focus from distraction.

an objective view of our mental states - component parts (outside influences, authored programming deeply rooted) - low frequency rest - high frequency activity - variable harmonics - different processes are associated with different areas of the brain: verbal tasks processed on the left side above the ear - space, movement handled on the right - emotions are in the front - visual processing are at the back of the head -- call into play only what is necessary to the task - train the mind.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:42 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MIND - Paradigm Rhyme: Open_Notes 6

rehearsing the future = imagination - stretch your imagination - open your mind - THINK - patterns organize and structure our experiences - occupying many spaces at the same time - yet remaining distinct - we see with our minds - our visual world, our visual reality - (what we see is what we know - our awareness level) - expand the boundaries of your knowledge - your observable universe - what we see and don't see is determined by the concepts, assumptions, beliefs in our head - subtract the limitations of the mind from your awareness - eliminate the boundaries of the mind - move beyond our conceptualizations - you have the power to choose how you perceive the world around you - the very act of perceiving the world is an integral part of the way it is understood - linking the spaces we imagine with the spaces we live in.

memory and expectation - peering into certain aspects in a visual way - exploring - engaging our sense of wonder - encounter something completely new - immerse our senses - our consciousness - pocket of virtual space in our minds to model the outside spaces - mirror of the world, seat of consciousness - able to share with others - magicked out of the mental void - creationism - esemplastic adj. [bringing together or able to bring together different concepts and thoughts into a unified whole - the esemplastic ability of the imagination] - esemplasticity - expanded human consciousness - minds eye - doorway to the universe of the imagination - step through the door and lock it behind you - what is your mental locking mechanism?

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:34 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MIND - Paradigm Rhyme: Open_Notes 7

risk to satisfy curiosity? - the final frontier has some boundaries that should not be crossed - we can never find the limitless in this limited material experience - beyond any intellect, beyond our scope of control -- HIGH KNOWLEDGE -- Psalms 139:1. "To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known [me]. 2 Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. 3 Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted [with] all my ways. 4 For [there is] not a word in my tongue, [but], lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. 5 Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. 6 [Such] knowledge [is] too wonderful for me; it is HIGH, I cannot [attain] unto it."

thought = [1. the act or process of thinking; reflection; meditation; cognition 2. the power of reasoning, or of conceiving ideas; capacity for thinking; intellect; imagination 3. a result of thinking; idea, concept, opinion, principles, etc. 4. attention; consideration; heed 5. mental engrossment; preoccupation; concentration 6. intention or expectation] -- thought = thou ought (to be compelled by obligation, duty, or desirability - to be expected, likely) - intellection -- thought streams / data streams, rivers (of thought, consciousness) - data receptors (interests, concepts, truths - foundation (open mind) - understandings (cohesive needs, agreements, ideas, patterns).

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:31 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MIND - Paradigm Rhyme: Open_Notes 8

a drop in the bucket (physical, restrained, limited) or a (spiritual) drop in the river of righteousness - to water the universe (creation) - thought = mind in motion (words, art - moving ideas - thought time) - string theory - threads of thought (dream weaver) - Robes of Righteousness - woven by spiritual threads - Trees of Righteousness - roots (use of all available food) - Matter, Energy, Thought (speed of thought), infinite velocity, (Psm 147:5 God's understanding infinite) -- thoughts (patterns of energy) - imprints on the self_conscious - inner dialogue - stop the negative thoughts, the negative chatter - inner hypnosis - thoughts influence our lives - we are what we think, we think (by means of) what we are - where is thought if it never leaves the thinker?

bring form to thought - discover meaning in experience - becoming human - experience your thoughts - act on them (open the window of opportunity) - tempering the chains of logic vs. weak links - "thinko" (ie. typo) a bubble in the stream of consciousness - the Great Link - form and thought, idea and sensation - the Idea Factory - meritocracy - change your way of thinking, definitions - get your mind working for you - bring your every thought unto obedience of Christ and His righteousness (clean through the Word) - conceptual shift - cognitive therapy - re-evaluating how a person thinks - put your life back into perspective - a new way of living, lifestyle.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:29 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MIND - Paradigm Rhyme: Open_Notes 9

understanding consciousness, awareness - expand (open to infinity) your mind - the capacity for thinking - mentation n. [L mens (gen. mentis), mind + -ation) mental functioning; activity of the mind] - frame (pattern) of reference - windows of the mind (shutters) - renewal = rewrite authored programming - erase, change images - shaped/moulded by society/environment - we must become pliable for the Master Potter - we must adapt, build the Information Environment to be prepared for life - Master Potter moulding - one's psychology = the sum of the actions, traits, attitudes, thoughts, mental states, etc., of a person or group.

thoughts are the pathways into the mind (neural net, ie. information environment, IE) - mind rooted in the Holy Spirit singularity (begotten) - knowledge of God from within - path of clarity, purification (pure waters) of mind, spirit - pure light - crystal clear vision vs. glass, darkly - the Word, eternal life - LIGHTED PATH - Gates of Heaven vs. the gates of hell - deeply etched pathways, many ruts in the road - emotional compass - trade in the "used" memories - some memories are meant to fade, they are designed to - an unsettled mind - sediment stirred up; Jude 1:13 "Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever" - MIND STORMS - mattoid [rare] = [a person of unbalanced mind who is almost psychotic] - holding profile - a prepared mind vs. breaking profile.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:26 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MIND - Paradigm Rhyme: Open_Notes 10

a penetrating mind and a carefully guarded intellectual balance - cognitive consistency = the tendency of a person's beliefs and actions to be logically consistent with one another - when cognitive dissonance, or the lack of such consistency, arises, the person unconsciously seeks to restore consistency by changing his or her behavior, beliefs, or perceptions - the manner in which a particular individual classifies cognition's in order to impose order has been termed cognitive style - cognition = act or process of knowing - cognition includes attention, perception, memory, reasoning, judgment, imagining, thinking, speech, problem solving, and creativity - how people receive, interpret, encode, store, and retrieve information - (from the standpoint of information handling, parallels are stressed between the functions of the human brain and the computer concepts such as the coding, storing, retrieving, and buffering of information) - inner (mental, cerebral) fitness - outer (physical) fitness -- encounter spiritual experience.

nine intelligences: mathematical-logical; spatial; musical; language; bodily kinetic; interpersonal; extrapersonal; naturalist, empathy with the biosphere; existence, the spiritual (religious impulse) [Howard Gardner, Multiple Intelligence] - ennead n. [Gr enneas < ennea, nine] a group or set of nine (books, gods, etc) -- ennead mentation -- the mind must be regarded as a holistic concept - a pattern of activity - collective unconscious (CG Jung) = genetic memory - web of consciousness - compounded of primordial, universal images we all share (mandala) - substructure, background of awareness - group mind - matrix (Mandelbrot Set) - infinite resolution and complexity - dynamical system, formula - collage theorem - copies of itself, covering of smaller copies of itself - self-referencing statement.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:22 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Mammon or Messiah: MM Book 1 Chapter 3-18

[Mammon or Messiah: MM Book 1 Chapter 3-18](#)

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:19 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MIND - Paradigm Rhyme: Open_Notes 11

genius - not something a person does or a person has, but the outcome of an effort to try to make a real difference in the world - when that happens and when we recognized it, honour it, celebrate it, cherish it, preserve it, change our lives because of it, we have recognized the reality of genius.

a vision beyond - the ability to see ten things where another sees only one - individual agency - seeing the world in new ways, changing reality - inspired creations - hard to communicate to people seeing the world in the old way - cognitive skills over and above the ordinary - don't look at what is missing, look at what is there, love and acceptance - eccentrics, out of step and out of reach - shutting out the world to solve the world's problems - lifelong permanent non-conformist - driven by a great curiosity - inside the problem, empathy with the problems, new insights, unusual perspectives - seeing the world in a different way - not obsessed with the world's approval - reclusive - value of individuality, idealistic, humanitarian, creative in unusual ways, unique viewpoints, off-center - use of visual imagery in creative thinking.

at the time of breakthrough, crucial moments of discovery, true genius needs support, love, understanding, at the time when they are most alone, to keep from going crazy - using knowledge of other people to effect change in the world - every intelligence is amoral, can be used for both good and bad.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:14 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MIND - Paradigm Rhyme: Open_Notes 12

memory - mind mapping - 1 imagery; 2 organize and locate; 3 associate, to link things together - map out your thought - smart drugs - neotropics - to enhance oxygen, to improve the metabolism of the brain - B-Complex Vitamins, the foundation of brain function - Vitamin E, Ginkgo Biloba - the brain is already optimized through millions of years of development - smart drugs to achieve a higher effective use of what talents and abilities you already have - nature-nurture, genes-environment - a blend of both determine intelligence.

new standards of achievement, new worlds of opportunity and attention, prodigies - extraordinary focus, high ideals - able to touch people and lead people in very powerful causes and directions, ie., Jesus, Gandhi, etc. - artistic genius pushing culture forward - focus, dedication - special ability, recognition of brilliance - a greater instinct, genius - give yourself permission to do it - focus carries genius to those great moments of insight, something remarkable - exceptional talent to master but genius so dominates that it transforms the field - talent and dedication, nature and nurture - genius-level

performance - focus on the task-at-hand, the entire brain - genius for the most part is genetic - rarely does genius cross it's own boundaries.

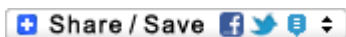
 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:11 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MIND - Paradigm Rhyme: Open_Notes 13

be constantly open to new ideas and inspiration - mental involvement - mentation, build steps, essence of one step to the next step - think long and hard - strategy and deception, charisma, faith in their judgement - slow deliberation, quick-thinkingness - intellect capable of understanding, temperament to make it work - able to pull-the-trigger, let's go! - capitalize on the arrogance of your opponents, ie., military operations, waging peace (wear down) - use your own creativity to do something new and constructive.

spy-master (cynicism, paranoia, able to outwit, devious, deceptive) - interpersonal intelligence - people are not always what they seem - a good actor - master of imagination and illusion - code-breaker, intellectual mass - genius driven by ideology, sense of destiny, mission - durable imprint on a field - the fulcrum of monumental change in human history, is often genius - comes from a certain madness, something in their mind has taken them - focus the dividing line between talent and genius -- through the clarity of vision we call genius, the human race has raised it gaze from the bog of our beginnings to a limitless universe of possibility - before and after genius the world is not the same, it's sweep touches all lives - standing on the shoulders of genius we are offered a unique vantage point to see further, enabling us to see far into our future or look back and learn from our past - crave the inspiration, the fuel to drive forward. -- [Notes 11,12,13][based on A&E, "Mystery of Genius", Dec.98]

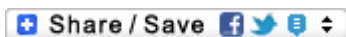
 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:08 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MIND - Paradigm Rhyme: Open_Notes 14

mind icons, dream icons - metaphors (an implied comparison) - experimentation with metaphor - inner dialogue, subconscious level - representative substitutions - GRAVEN IMAGE - the "hunger" of the mind - substitution danger - role-playing, mimicry - fantasy replication - replicant regression (what may have been) - replicant progression (what may yet be) - deeply etched overriding needs, wants - physical release - selfish (emotional) gratification - everyone has a small corner of their mind willing to be exploited - they want to be someone else - emotional roles, deep pleasure lock - feeding a hunger that has been repressed - just below the surface, running deep - a willing participant - obtrude n. obtrusive adj. - [1 to thrust forward; push out; eject 2 to offer or force (oneself, one's opinion, etc.) upon others unasked or unwanted] - intrusion.

addiction (Satan's Way) vs. adoption (addition to the Family of God) - our OS (individual Operating System) rules of behaviour - a combination of addiction and pattern - authored within, influenced from without - the insanity when held in the grip of obtrusive mental states; ie., lack of worth, inadequacy, alone in the world, addiction (craving, desire demands [academic, recreational sex, etc.], loss of control, ability to stop), etc. - loss of power over faculties (including response pathways, will to do) - battle for control of the mind - molten rock searing reason - filling the gaps, voids, emptiness within - letting loose the daemons (reasoning's, justifications, obsessions, etc.) - stirring the pot (mindbrew) - spinning the emotional compass.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:04 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MIND - Paradigm Rhyme: Open_Notes 15

depressed mental state; momentary pot holes, pin holes in the psyche - reinforcement boost ie. alcohol, drug intake; masturbation - OPENING CLOSED DOORS - trigger craving - embedded vulnerability to recapture and relive - pulled back (relapse) - associative learning, emotional memory (content, significance, emotional lock, ie. sexual) - roots into the deep recesses of the brain - below reason - the survival part of the brain - the nature of the beast - sacrifice of self (addiction) vs. self-sacrifice (adoption).

release the weight - pull the psychological linchpins - pull the wheel off the axle - break the circle - recovery is about change, freedom, honesty - daily process of change - the power of unmasking - over, not under the influence - we are tempted by the lusts (authored, developed) within - keep the doors closed, locked - erase the scripts, documents of the mind - get back on your feet (mindwalk), even footing vs. slipping, falling - I am worth life - road to recovery - journey away from addiction - a journey of many small steps - a daily reprieve (Grace) - addiction is a long, long journey away from ourselves - recovery is the long, long journey back to ourselves.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:59 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MIND - Paradigm Rhyme: Open_Notes 16

reconstruction of identity and meaning - synergy - (to work together, a SACRED place) - fragile behaviour alongside healthy behaviour - healing, conversion vs. relapse, slipping (vs. total relapse, despair, a SCARED place) - voice of my truth (ie., sexual abuse, x pain) - progressive disease - escape addictions' grip - become committed to change - not an impossible dream - breaking the addiction - overcoming stressors, cues - requires family, friends, fellowship - he who heals himself has a fool for a doctor and an idiot for a patient - overcoming the "old man" - are we repaving the old path (results in uplifts, cracks) or are we digging deep, replacing the foundation also?

spiritual/physical "drugs" = the reactions, diversions, results engendered by the emmonic virus [emotion/money], the SOCIAL ADDICTION -- the symptoms, ie., hate = anger, hostility coming forth - crystallized into action, shifting the blame - expressions of hostility - you cannot regulate hate - "hate laws" do not address the core of the problem -- healing properties (Holy Spirit, medicine) or debilitating (poison, weakened, diseased) - psychological influences - pharmacon [Gr pharmakon; a poison, medicine, drug] substance, influence.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:57 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MIND - Paradigm Rhyme: Open_Notes 17

pharmacognition:
pharmaceutical [LL pharmaceuticus < Gr pharmakeutikos < pharmakeuein, to practise witchcraft, use medicine < pharmakon, a poison, medicine] 1 of pharmacy or pharmacists 2 of or by drugs; also pharmaceutic - a pharmaceutical product, drug -- pharmacodynamics - the effect and the reaction of drugs within the body -- pharmacogenetics - the study of genetic variation as revealed by various reactions to a drug -- pharmacognosy [Gr pharmakon, drug + -gnosia < gnosis, knowledge] the medicinal products of plant, animal, or mineral origin in their crude or unprepared state -- pharmacokinetics - the absorption, distribution, and elimination of drugs by the body -- pharmacology [ModL pharmacologia] 1 orig. the study of the preparation, qualities, and uses of drugs 2 the science dealing with the effect of drugs on living organisms; pharmacologist -- pharmacopeia, pharmacopoeia [ModL < Gr. pharmakopoiia] 1 authoritative book containing a list and description of drugs and medicinal products together with the standards established under law for their production, dispensation, use, etc. 2 a stock of drugs -- pharmacy [ME farmacie, medicine < MFr farmacie < LL pharmacia < Gr pharmakeia < pharmakon, drug] 1 the art or profession of preparing and dispensing drugs and medicines 2 a place where pharmacy is practised.

Lexicon G5331 pharmakeia from G5332; AV - sorcery (2) - witchcraft (1) [3] 1a) the use or the administering of drugs 1b) poisoning 1c) sorcery, magical arts, often found in connection with idolatry and fostered by it; the deceptions and seductions of idolatry -- G5332 pharmakeus from pharmakon (a drug, ie. spell-giving potion); AV - sorcerer (1) 1) one who prepares or uses magical remedies, sorceries -- G5333 pharmakos the same as G5332; AV - sorcerer (1) 1) pertaining to magical arts.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:54 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

[MYND - Spiritual Alchemy: Open_Notes 1](#)

the reckoning - the end or the beginning - do not confuse faith with ambition - yield to the higher power - command authority - absolute becoming vs. conduct unbecoming - formulas of behaviour - everyday conduct - standards - our conduct reflects the value we place on truth - character - moral imprint on one's behaviour - what we have "in mind" determines our actions - what you think about, you bring about (where your treasure is) - our actions - embodying the mind - personality aspects, its emotions - the voices in the mind - sometimes the situation determines the terms - our behaviour determined by our internal dynamics - inhibitor n. inhibit n. [1 restrain, curb, to hold back or keep from some action, feeling, etc. check or repress 2 [rare] to prohibit; forbid] a mental or psychological process that restrains or suppresses an action, emotion, or thought.

sacrifice of principles in order to survive? (violation of principles as a matter of cause in order to protect them) - people who venture beyond the rim of known space (the event horizon) should not be surprised if they encounter shadows - sometimes the best move is not to - minimum code = minimum character - inspect yourself, your building code. sensitivity and discretion are appreciated by all concerned - truth is not flexible but half-truths can bend until they snap - the truth is always the best, even if it doesn't always make sense - toward the habit of truth - straight talk not word-play; (diplomacy/mad policy; cures/curse; sacred/scared) - truth in <> out - blended data (mixed fibers) or pure data (fine linen).

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:35 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

[Mammon or Messiah research](#)

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

[MYND - Spiritual Alchemy: Open_Notes 2](#)

words typify an attitude - the implied - there is nothing so powerful as the unspoken - perception is much more profound than reality - governance of ourselves - tempered by wisdom - anger is danger without the "d" - the physical/spiritual components and aspects of our lives - sometimes when things don't work out we return to the devil we know - remain true to the truth vs. excuses, liability trail - willing to die for the truth or willing to die for the lies? - every choice we make has consequences - we are incredibly resistant to change because it disrupts feelings of comfort and familiarity.

find the divisions between what you are and what you are not - with every new choice we can change who we are going to be - different choices = alternate paths - me against the world - personal culture of conscience - conscientious objector - EXPATRIATE (to withdraw from one's native land or allegiance to it) - a marginal rebel on the edge of the world - roaming the backroads -- personal narrative (common_place book) - I'm just as confused as everyone else, but I've accepted the confusion and am now looking for the answers, to unravel the confusion - the more questions we answer, the more answers we end up questioning - blind spots (ie. in science) - "by the questions we pose, ourselves we deceive, so limited in thought, by what we choose to perceive" (-Dave Marchant, Boston Univ., NG Magazine, "Antarctic", Oct.98).

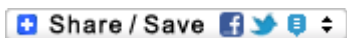
 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:32 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MYND - Spiritual Alchemy: Open_Notes 3

freedom without choice - buying the dream - America no longer exists -- regain your freedom not by patriotism, being a patriot, but by withdrawal, refusal to participate as weapon - EXPATRIATISM - regain your humanity -- money (the emmonic (emotion/money)) detaches the human from humanity; separates the human from his humanity - people perceiving walls that are not there -- communitarian = human_scale sovereign community(-ies) -- spiritual loss = guilt; spiritual gain = courage; empty the cauldron of guilt, fill the cauldron with courage -- freedom based on money is freedom based on debt and is therefore not freedom at all - someone has to pay (to whom? is the question we all should be asking) - freedom based on the enslavement of others is sin of the highest magnitude - personal gain at the expense of others = evil -- "question established cultural values - most political agenda's deny consequences - the -ism's - the assumption of the absence of spirit - the systemic momentum fatal - we have to deflect the momentum" [-Terence McKenna] -- collective states of mind serving the SAGE agenda - misdirection of life energy.

seeing patterns where others see only confusion - walking the line between hope and caution - operating outside the standard protocol - inner reality / outer reality - the things around you determine how you feel - enrichment of life - going through change - displaced - emotional turmoil - inner doubts - rationalizations - surrendering to our own fears, terror, before surrendering to the enemy - fear should be respected - only we ourselves can give us another chance - God does not abandon us, we abandon ourselves - free yourself from fears of unfamiliar feelings that block growth toward creativity and intimacy - deepen and enrich your connection with others.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:28 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MYND - Spiritual Alchemy: Open_Notes 4

create the life you deserve - a new approach - maximize - reflect reality - the reality in terms of the capacity, ability and willingness to assume added or new responsibilities - we all have more than one identity (home, church, work, play, etc.), relationships/identity (emotional fulfillment), family, business, etc. - the "art" of recognition - when we look at "art" and see ourselves - escape the ordinary - to be awake is to be alive - days are not something to get through, days are something to live - a day that shapes everyday that follows - everyday is a journey and the journey itself is home - if I find my own way - how much will I find? - experience the continuity of the journey - truly celebrate the eternal within each moment - discover your personal strength - it lies in your coping style that has gotten you this far - shift depression to hope.

transcending limits - resisting limits - faith, belief in action - what we are learning doesn't seem to have an ending - when am I? - same questions, no certain answers - nothing new here - just expanding the old -- learn / past, live / present, dream / future -- sometimes we have to look back to move forward - there are many things hidden in time that we have yet to learn - the past embraces the present and the future is wide open - linear time / existence - where are we existing? - stuck in a moment of time? (frame of mind, motives, actions, etc., past, present, future) - separate now from later - "time senses" - how we speak (talk) of time - the past makes sense of the present, the present structure shapes the future - the change that sparks the future is rooted in discovering what sparked the past and present - for the future to be bright, it must be lit by the lamp of learning - time(only) records a body of truth.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:25 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MYND - Spiritual Alchemy: Open_Notes 5

rediscover, adjust your sense of time - live (dreams, faith, hope) - never go back to what you were - the results will change your life - present determined by the future vs. present determined by the past - you are the dreamer and the dream - thoughts, perceptions, relationships - you cannot go back to your normal (former) life, you are no longer the same person, and the course of your life will change as a result - where that new course leads is up to you - meditation - positive (light) thinking - the continual [present] of our own experiences - time doesn't stand still - we take ourselves out of time when we become lost in our present experience - time sinks - I will not deny myself this experience, not curiosity, desire - more out of life - to experience and be experienced.

integrative medicine - synthesis (natural/science) not alternative or complimentary - healthy habits last a lifetime = prevention - start today to protect yourself tomorrow - the interplay between thoughts, emotions - hormones and the immune system - a foundation of education, diet, exercise and meditation - CONVIVIUM, convivencia [education, discipline of mynd, exercise, nutrition] - a time of learning - Garden (Isa 58:11) of Eden - to embrace the future fully, one must give to it the very best of oneself - you have to do it, no one else can - react to people vs. just letting people react to you (conceit) - recycling time = genes, habit, memory - culture, customs etc. = habits (anti-habits), high culture (bad habits) - Eccl 1:9 "that which has been is what will be" - an actor, reenact(or) on the human, world stage - examine the human species - the core of our humanity - we are so disconnected from our core humanity.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:21 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MYND - Spiritual Alchemy: Open_Notes 6

be open to allow - finding your purpose in life - Human Beings not Human Doings (do less - be more); define yourself - people everywhere are going to have to know much more about, and demand much more from, themselves - reach beyond the carnal mentality and extend into the realm of the God Family - shape a relationship that is one of depth, openness and mutual need - design your life - invent who you want to be - redefine your potential - which rulebook, guidelines, directives, overriding protocols? - there is a big difference between our "wants" and our "needs" - before we allow ourselves to be consumed by our regrets, we should remember the mistakes we make in life are not so important as the lessons we draw from them.

fragments of knowledge - adrift without answers - bits and pieces which don't stick together and have no common purpose - these fragments are meaningless because they are not organized around any central purpose or vision of the world - scrapbook of the mind: branches without roots; (branch of learning - subject MATTER), (character, morality, religion - SPIRIT values) - failure of Creative Power - UNDERMINED (weariness, indifference, divisiveness, violence - a diseased humanity) - infinite parts consisting as one (mind) - personality (complex interactions) - incorporation of research (life) into an overall framework designed to make the information useful - we empower (empowered) our own imaginations, thoughts - Mind Power (give power, authority to, authorize, give ability to, enable, permit) - the most powerful tool we have is our ingenuity.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:20 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MYND - Spiritual Alchemy: Open_Notes 7

escape the prisons of our disbelieving minds - love is what lies in wait under everything and is the only thing that's fact, the only thing that's real - everything else is in our imagination - when hearts are in sympathy, time collapses - when humans learn to love themselves, then they will not harm any person or thing on this planet - LOVE HEALS - keep opinions, conceits, vain imaginings vs. forcing it upon others - listening not talking - learning to listen vs. mind control - we speak loudest when we listen the most - most people just need a good listening to.

strip away the layers of denial - clothed with sackcloth (humility); filthy rags vs. robes of righteousness (fine linen); lies vs. truth - we must choose between human intellect, man's own reasoning, or the Tree of Life, representing REVEALED KNOWLEDGE from God - don't let the hits (of life, etc.), one-by-one, chop down the tree - satan's battle-axe, two-sided axe vs. two-edged sword (SacredWORD) - positive affirmation (everyday in everyway I am getting better), visualizations, acknowledging, self-esteem - positive image of self - fully expressing our "authentic self" vs. masking - being and doing:

feeding the hunger:
physical -- spiritual;
mental imprints -- new definitions;
impulses, urges (secular) -- spiritual manna, bread of life, new framework ;
world view -- universe view;
tainted waters -- pure water of life;
shallow well -- deep well;
human spirituality -- holy, righteous, spiritual character.

spiritual vacuum - a gulf between our "being" and our "doing" - the world's "tabloid theology" - spiritually empty -- stress, underlying depression > religion (self-medication, answers) -- "science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind". [-Albert Einstein]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:12 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Mammon or Messiah: MM Book 1 Chapter 5-3

[Mammon or Messiah: MM Book 1 Chapter 5-3](#)

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:11 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MYND - Spiritual Alchemy: Open_Notes 8

finding a sense of place - searching for a belonging place - a sanctuary from criticism - HOME vs. the jesters (professional fools) paradise - unlimited personal potential - consciousness raising personal development - re-framing your context - shifting your perception - engaging your courage and compassion - choosing love and acceptance - learn to value your power and your vulnerability - change learned patterns - allow wishes, hopes, and desires to surface - positive thoughts bring positive results - be compassionate with your failings - each of us has a story - some pages open, some private - our narrative - our narration (a story, account, tale) - identify, create and act on new choices - learn more about yourself and what you value - build more satisfying relationships - discover more joy and passion in your life! HEAL THE PAST - EMPOWER THE PRESENT

when one stands amid the rubble of a relationship, then one has not only lost the relationship, but also the whole world view - losing my religion - just a dream - next stage in your life? - it is important that our goals do not remain just a dream or vision - we have to release the inner frustrations that are holding us back - address the deepest levels of being - restoring meaning, creativity and authenticity - become curious, aware and accepting of yourself - gently transform old patterns of hurt - find adventure, grace and balance in your relationships and life.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:04 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MYND - Spiritual Alchemy: Open_Notes 9

searching for meaning in other human beings - the best mirror you can look into is an old friend - we all have a longing for home (family) - life partner - family - choosing and mixing your DNA - reproducing self - the woman returns to the man from whence she came - one flesh - genetically and spiritually - I want to be the type of man that you will marry - it's not only how much you love someone, it's who you are when you're with that person - role - needed, loved, etc. - a couple - a sense of "us" - when something's your own, your roots are sunk deep, and shoots spring up around them - that's what holds things together - poor as dirt, and as rich as the earth - if you are safe and secure then a part of me is also - love isn't something we have, it is something that we do - love isn't something we change, it is something that changes us - in a climate of encouragement, human beings can do amazing things.

the value of creating, exercising our imagination - quiet, confident pride - the inner landscape - share with a "creative circle" - be a self-starter rather than a painter-by-numbers - harmony (perSONA) - composed as a picture - happiness is not about getting more - it is about enjoying what we have - purpose of life is happiness and our happiness is founded in self-awareness and self-acceptance - body/mind integrated - we cannot understand ourselves apart from our environment - therefore focus on what you are experiencing and on how you are choosing to act in the present - a person is measured by the quality of his friends (by the company he keeps) - family: interacting with my genealogical lineage.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [4:01 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MYND - Spiritual Alchemy: Open_Notes 10

Consequence Code Method: decoding life by studying consequences makes options clearer, decisions easier, and minimizes conflict - free yourself from beliefs and actions that cause unnecessary pain and prevent living fully -- focus: 1 the benefits and costs to you and others by your actions; 2 the search for harmony between desires and responsibilities - no jargon - no excuses - goal: clarity of vision.

deep personal unfoldment - learn to listen to your body, learn from your emotions - anger, shame, hurt, depression, sadness - and empower yourself with "integrated bodywork" - what becomes of feelings that have no voice, no place to go? - understand the meaning behind the suffering and thus help release it - explore the conscious and unconscious aspects of a problem - freedom from the beliefs, feelings and behaviours that result in emotional pain and repetitive, reactive patterns that keep you stuck - life's options open up as you learn to respond rather than react, resulting in 1 healthy, intimate, satisfying relationships 2 more success in work and career 3 joy, ease, and pleasure in life itself 4 aliveness and authenticity. [based on Shared Vision Magazine]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:58 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MYND - Spiritual Alchemy: Open_Notes 11

issues to deal with: emotional, physical and sexual abuse - addictive and obsessional behaviour - relationship issues and co-dependency - anxiety and depression - self-expression; Creativity and energy vs. pressure and stress; sense of freedom vs. feeling trapped; self-worth vs. low self-esteem; ease in relating vs. poor relationships; acceptance vs. resentment; clarity vs. guilt; confidence vs. fear.

imagine life to be an ongoing peak experience - recover the real self - reconnect with your energy and creativity - refine skills to realize your goals and reinstate your personal power - lighten up - dissolve fears and blocks at the fundamental level - relief from struggle, pain and suffering - all activity can become activity which enlightens, rather than hard work and serious business - put fun, joy and ease into self-improvement - more satisfying work and love relationships - a deeper

capacity for excitement and happiness - a vibrant connection to dreaming and intuition - healthy self-confidence -- a healthier connection to community - the power of love - community immunity - you live as long as people remember you - generate happiness and peace-of-life out of ourselves -- if I give you me - HEALING !! [based on Shared Vision Magazine]

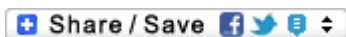


Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:55 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MYND - Spiritual Alchemy: Open_Notes 12

beliefs make our lives - first we make the beliefs, then the beliefs make us - we can imprison ourselves in our beliefs - we create our lives around our beliefs, values - (self)hypnosis = reprogramming our subconscious with new beliefs, values - deep absorption - we slip into mini-trances all day long - different types of hypnosis - stage, forensic, performance, clinical - power of the mind to overcome disease - rewrite the past - self-esteem, (self-estimate, self-worth, self-image), the hub of the wheel - critical to the people you attract in your life, experiences, etc. - forgiveness necessary to heal yourself - resentment, anger, grievances - release the past, bring all of your energy into the present - stop punishing yourself - a proper healing modality vs. conceptual crisis -- mental imagery to help the immune response vs. disease - aim the mind - pharmacognition (physical, spiritual) - emotions - (self)hypnosis, affirmations, (self)talk, bring thoughts under control - stress-control issues most important.

we have to invent a 2nd life for the 2nd half - 40-45 yrs (1st half) - 1st half a bouncing (place, person, event, interest, etc.), bounced - 2nd half a long continuous roll (how long is self-determined) - some drop into life with a thud, others bounce to stability, to varying degrees (+/- composition, density, velocity). [based on PBS, "Talk of the Nation"]



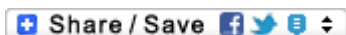
Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:53 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MYND - Spiritual Alchemy: Open_Notes 13

at the end, if we are brave enough to love, strong enough to forgive, generous enough to rejoice in another's happiness, and wise enough to know there is enough love to go around for us all - then we can achieve a fulfillment that no other living creature will ever know - we can re-enter paradise. -- [Reader's Digest, "You Don't Have to be Perfect", May.97]

limiting beliefs: they get conditioned in, often at an early age - there are hundreds of these beliefs that are subconscious and set limits around what we can achieve - its the job of the subconscious to maintain the belief system - we have to de-program the limiting belief -- visualization: an active, focused re-education of the subconscious, moving into another "octave" of consciousness - the opposite of wishful thinking - it is taking on the responsibility to change your life by changing your INTERNAL STORY - ie., is there some part of you that doesn't want to get well? - the limiting belief is that one deserves to be sick, or that one will lose something by getting well - it can be very subtle.

the prison of our minds vs. creativity - break the bars of the cage - the bars are represented by some of the following habits, tendencies or beliefs: 1 stereotyping what is around us rather than paying close attention to what actually is - look and listen; 2 failure to fully use our senses; 3 not being in the habit of synthesizing disparate elements in our lives; 4 not running the risk of being creative for fear of ridicule; 5 living in a highly critical society (personal environment); 6 over-dependence on reason and logic; 7 believing that paying attention to our intuitive and imaginative side is a waste of time; 8 lack of education on how to more fully use one's (mind). -- [Shared Vision, "Uncaging the Eagle of Creativity", Aug.97]



Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:50 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MYND - Spiritual Alchemy: Open_Notes 14

stopping: how to be still when we have to keep going: 1 still points - turn in, moments, prayer, etc. (a connoisseur of the moment); 2 stop overs - longer periods of time, hours, weekends, etc.; 3 grinding halts - so distracted by the unresolved - waiting for something to happen so that your life begins = needs, decisions based on reality; requires months.

wanting change is not the same as changing - take responsibility: 1 know what you want - you cannot claim it if you cannot name it; (name it to claim it); 2 barriers to what we want - choices, decisions vs. obstacles; 3 what must I do to get it? - commitment, program yourself to do it vs. willpower - winners do things that losers don't want to do; 4 don't look outside yourself to find the answer - giving your power away to someone else - your level of value and worth - give ourselves what we wish someone else would give us - look in the mirror - treat yourself with dignity and respect and do not accept anything less from others -- set goals - live the life of your dreams - the difference between a goal and a dream: 1 a goal is specific; 2 a goal has a timeline; 3 a goal has accountability -- you cannot change without acknowledgement - we always have choices - horrible things happen, they either take you out or move you up - my time, my turn - do it. [Oprah Winfrey, Apr.10.98]

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:47 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MYND - Spiritual Alchemy: Open_Notes 15

I had to completely exhaust my whole system of beliefs and undergo a very serious depression - loss of everything, all sense of purpose - by being forced to let go of all these attachments, and the belief that they would make me happy, I ended up losing myself - paradoxically, I needed to do that to find myself, because that was the only thing left at the end of it all - when you enter that "dark night of the soul," and face the terror of losing that umbilical attachment to the world where you thought your salvation lay, you discover that that was the last thing you would find there - and that's when you finally welcome God in - He has been waiting all the time, in every second, and in every relationship for us to find him. -- [Shared Vision Magazine, "Lessons in Love", A Course in Miracles, Mar.98]

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:45 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MYND - Spiritual Alchemy: Open_Notes 16

Concept of Separation: When Adam bit of the apple in the Garden of Eden, he was symbolically choosing something other than his relationship with God - not satisfied (with his being, his potential within the God Family) he wanted to be his own creator - we, like Adam, have all held that apple - representing the antithesis of God - and made choices for which, deep down, we feel tremendous guilt and shame.

in making those choices which led us away from God, we believed that we would be punished, and so we created the "ego mind" (the most important me; the all important self; infallible; self-righteous) to protect ourselves - projecting our shame and guilt onto the world, we get rid of it by blaming others and finding them guilty - in doing so, we find ourselves innocent -this is our way of reclaiming the innocence that we believe we lost. [based on Shared Vision Magazine, "Lessons in Love", A Course in Miracles, Mar.98]

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:43 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

MYND - Spiritual Alchemy: Open_Notes 17

the problem is that it is a false sense of innocence based on victimhood - the projection of blame onto others is one of SEVERAL LAYERS OF DENIAL which we construct to obscure our memory of love and the truth about God's love for us - it is also THE LIE that keeps us separate and distant from others, distorting our personal relationships and disconnecting us from universal truths and ultimate happiness - we are functioning BEHIND A MASK, living a functional but passionless existence in order to safeguard ourselves against the levels of consciousness which lie beneath it.

if we can move through our mask, have the courage and willingness to examine our system of denial and defense, transcend our thoughts of attack and blame, and uncover what's underneath, then we come to the purpose of all relationships (fellowship, marriage, FAMILY) - when any two come together at any time, it is to correct this misperception of self - and it is in this connection that we have the opportunity to make the correction - without it, the ego thrives in isolation, sustaining its (selfish, deceived, vain imaginings) belief system -- if we don't heal together in the "holy encounter" of relationship, we will eventually be forced to do so, through some form of crisis in our lives. -- [based on Shared Vision Magazine, "Lessons in Love", A Course in Miracles, Mar.98]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:39 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Friday, October 9, 2009

The New Dark Ages: Open_Notes 1

21st Century: moving into a new dark ages - amplifying trends through design - optimism (architects, designers) - plans, intentions often with unintended consequence - technological interaction with human behaviour - high-tech mediaevalism - nation states weakening, partially supplanted by other forms of power - global institutions, organized crime networks, terrorist networks - moving centers of power - guild-corporate systems - regional-urban confederations forming - regional economics, city-states - information-age military used as a global-internationalized police force to protect city-states (economies, etc.) - nation-states becoming less and less central - democracy allows states to express both its strengths and weaknesses - technology and democracy will not make a peaceful world. -- [based on "The Coming Anarchy, The Ends of the Earth", author Robert D. Kaplan; CBC Futureworld, Apr.11.98 - 1994 Atlantic Monthly article]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:09 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The New Dark Ages: Open_Notes 2

poverty, ethnic strife, and corrupt private capital will throw the world into a bitter struggle between the have's and the have-not's - violent transformation - nothing is permanent - geography affects economy - the rich will move away from the poor, rather than spend their money on taxes, welfare, etc. - a new fragmentary society - we are building more borders - the Internet will liberate people from the nation state into a new global, international elite class, economy, interests - a new medievalism, no longer an economic tie to the nation state - the erosion of the nation state - patriotism cannot survive without economic self-interest - elite economic self-interest no longer tied to the nation - vast new urban pods, conglomerations, polycentric, dedicated to global commerce, high-technology platforms to world trade - nations ie., Canada/US working their way out of history, a gradual transition, becoming economic and cultural junction points to the worlds most talented people - concentrations of the best, elites united, colluded, anything possible - an oligarchy forming - elites revolting from social responsibility - "Cascadia" OR, WA, BC - the submerging of Canada - NA regionalism the result in the US - a high regard for history is essential to understand the future. -- [based on CBC Hot Type, Sep.20.98, "An Empire Wilderness", author Robert D. Kaplan]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:06 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The New Dark Ages: Open_Notes 3](#)

the "nation state" to be surpassed by an anarchic, corporate state - wealthy elites and corporations will bypass the nation - democracy is bad for business - eCommerce will hasten the collapse of civilization as we know it - an anarchic global trade system governed by natural selection - a "new barbarian manifesto" - the "nation" a Victorian invention, formed to fool the masses into believing they belong, that they have a place.

technology is giving the elites, the super-rich a place to run - capital flight - rerouteing around the cause of the nation state - increasingly valueless jobs - social disruption - the rich will leave, setting up a cosmopolitan, economic unit, ie., city-states - abandoning their social responsibilities - changing the rules - the nation state is a formula for manufacturing wealth - protection of the elitist elements waning, the status-quo - the revolt of the elite, moving out, a different set of values vs. the Judeo-Christian values (values of yesterday), survival of the fittest in the extreme - the "invention" of society, progress, the social contract, a western concept - 70% of the world not included, stolen from to support the west - the future will institutionalize poverty.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:03 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

[Mammon or Messiah research](#)

Friday, October 9, 2009

[The New Dark Ages: Open_Notes 4](#)

morality is the prejudice of the powerful - the new power emerging will have a new morality - power vs. sentimentality - a Darwinian society forming: humanity is the problem, not corporations - the children of tomorrow are tomorrow's polluters - the nation state is an extortionist, demanding your profits - it's a question of how much - the elites will revolt, leave - natural selection vs. the social delusion of a welfare state - the world is cruel - we delude ourselves - beyond good and evil - most people will march along with the inevitable -- go with the flow - get out, or impose your own will, your own vision -- most of societies problems are created by societies collectives who claim to be moral and who are not - law and justice are not the same - the law will protect whatever the winners decide - mutation of society vs. liberal baggage, sentimentality - new categories will evolve - when things get tough, liberal ideas go out the window. -- [Notes 3,4][based on CBC Futureworld, Ian Angel, LSE Professor of Information Systems, anarchist, author "Barbarian Manifesto", Jul.05.98]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:02 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The New Dark Ages: Open_Notes 5](#)

institutions and wealth (industrial) created by the first world society are now being moved to and supported by the 2nd and 3rd world (enabled by the rapid rise of a critical mass of a new middle class, - market extension - with billions for mass exploitation while needed) -- human work is being systematically phased out as computers and information technology replace human hands and minds - the first world being replaced, segmented (sifted) into a new wealth creation model - knowledge workers, new levels of technology, technopolises to override, manage, enable the 2nd-3rd levels -- the loss of jobs and persistent unemployment in the industrial countries is due mainly to changes in technology - "... it is misleading to blame job loss on the shift of corporations from the industrial countries to the Third World, as this is only a secondary

factor, and minor compared to the elimination of jobs by technology - the present technological developments amount to a Third Industrial Revolution - the first industrial revolution (in the 19th century) was characterised by coal and the steam engine, the second (in the 1920s) by oil and the electro-dynamo - the third is driven by information technology and the new biotechnologies ..." [-Jeremy Rifkin, "The End of Work"]

unemployment is "hard coded into (a flawed) capitalist system," and it has been one of the "features of capitalism" - wealth is organized and creates most of the existing want and insecurity - "by its very nature, the capitalist system is compelled to exploit the resources and labor of society for the purpose of maximizing profits" - there is a subsequent "neglect of social needs, privation, wastage, and general economic oppression and inequality that bring so much wealth to a few and misery to so many." -- [Dr. Michael Parenti, read also: DEMOCRACY FOR THE FEW (5th Edition), by Michael Parenti 1988, St. Martins Press]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:58 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The New Dark Ages: Open_Notes 6

manageable SAGE-educated wealthy class (vested interest cohesion) - many left behind, not needed - considered less than human (high expectations threat, considered spoiled, subject to unrest - sub-standard for the "new world" - unmanageable), to be used and cast away, controlled (oppression vs. individualism, freedom - restrict and circumvent conditions of existence; created problems to expose activists(-ism): they have to know who you are -- the results, the costs of the SAGE-Corporate world to be shifted and blamed on these outcasts for their elimination (participation) from the 21st century - a new eugenics - began with the plan for the "weakening" of the 1st level - the medical control of a whole population [contami_nation]; life held in a vise - a manufactured society both in consent and control - the 2nd-3rd following close behind, with the ultimate aim of a new "elevated", extremely wealthy society, few in numbers (1B seems manageable, sustainable) - the rest eradicated by nature - a SAGE induced "natural balance" - survival of the fittest - social Darwinism - built on the backs of billions of discarded human beings.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:54 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Technocratic Reality: Open_Notes 1

societal management vs. management of society; technology = harvesting - the harvesting of ourselves; the marketization (ie., www_profit) vs. the human potential, possibilities - a big jump in technology = a big drop in technological consciousness - "the technocratic class" - a profound anti-information society (mass media) - fragmentary linkages, breakdown in relationships between knowledge, judgement, perspective (media clips) - hunted down strategically; broken psychologically; defeated artificially; humiliated symbolically - "Kasparov Effect" (IBM Big Blue) for every man.

the triumph of technology = the coming chronic systematic unemployment, the surfacing of a new ruling global class, "the virtual class", and the simultaneous appearance of a "surplus class" - surplus bodies, surplus labor, surplus imagination, surplus culture - the dispossessed, surplus flesh - castoffs; the failed - the possessed vs. the dispossessed.

post-industrial society, economy, epitomized by global-investment market, 24/7 nanosecond stock trading - people control the technology - an extension of the industrial economy into a cybernetic phase - machine vision (being opened up) vs. human vision (being shut down) - cybernetic_corporations - the leasing of humanity - we have linked our identity to an expanding technology as the fullest measure possible of human freedom - technology is our deepest form of identity - technology is not outside of us, it is us.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:50 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Technocratic Reality: Open Notes 2

the computers are supposed to serve us - we are the one's supposed to be getting smarter, better, able to do things - they are supposed to open us up to more freedoms not less - an embedded computer environment - a wired culture - electronic collars - profound miscomprehension of how power operates in our society - the illusion of freedom, of democracy, of protection of civil liberties, of privacy - the lack of respect for our own -- stark vision - to think realistically today is to think radically, pessimistically - a huge price being paid by humanity for the coming-to-be of the technocratic reality - no broad-based, ethical discussions - we must raise questions, public debate vs. new forms of reality - The Knowledge of Good and Evil - culture of lies; betrayal of trust - awareness of society: withdrawal, retraction in horror; anger > corrosive cynicism > alienation vs. unity, loyalty - the informed space - media thick, time urgent - where am I? - image glutted society - human hatred in graphic detail - the past represented in the present; a future where the past is still there -- saturated with the past - worried about the future - dwell in the present moment - responsibility for the future? - history has been abused - our roots into the past - an invented social synthetic - virtuosity (virtual (image) reality - perishable, temporary - temporal).

nano-surgery on genes - nanotechnology - pharmaceutical, surveillance technologies, etc. - the potential there - a matter of will and law - consumers prepped in advance - no passive consumption allowed - protection of corporate investments - ideology of facilitation, ie., "life" sciences - everything is gradual, becomes acceptable (incremental changes) - silent, unsuspecting, not brought to a level of articulation, consciousness [STEALTH] - extraction of the human species > machine consciousness.-- [Notes 1,2][based on CBC, The Passionate Eye, Road Stories for the Flesh-Eating Future; Arthur and Marilouise Kroker, authors "Hacking the Future", Sep.99]

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:47 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mammon or Messiah: MM Book 1 Chapter 4-6

[Mammon or Messiah: MM Book 1 Chapter 4-6](#)

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:47 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Eco_nomics vs. Economics: Open Notes 1

what we have made and how we have made them has everything to do with what we are - a huge impact on the world and society - design to incorporate environmental implications, making resources more productive, to employ more people; it's all connected - what we make has to be able to be returned to the earth to become food for living systems, or in cycles of technical nutrient systems - no exceptions. -- ["The Ecology of Commerce", author Paul Hawken]

market economics looks at 1/2 of individual behaviour, ie., individual self-maximization, greed, avarice etc. vs. caring, sharing, cooperation - reinforcing competition vs. rewarding the better part of human nature - win-lose (competition) vs. win-win (cooperation) - competition now global economic warfare. -- ["Building a Win-Win World", author Hazel Henderson]

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:42 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Eco_nomics vs. Economics: Open_Notes 2

reevaluating the world economy - the world economy fails to recognize 1/2 of the population's work and value - dismissal vs. equal representation of women - our system is totally and utterly corrupt - women's work of little or no worth - does not generate cash - no value - national accounts, GNP calculations vs. environment, volunteers, homemakers, etc.

"total cost" economics necessity - ie., dung (fuel, fertilizer) non-primary product, no economic activity (vs. actual mass third-world activity) - Jeremy Rifkin: guaranteed annual wage, paid third-sector volunteerism - the system includes everything that goes through the math phase - a cash generating capacity - no value other than money - regardless of how that money is made - no value to peace, preservation of natural resources, to unpaid work, including motherhood, parenting - this system cannot respond to values it refuses to recognize.

the art of politics = managing limited resources (ie., money, non-renewable resources), this is economics; with limitless resources (ie., renewable resources, dated money_tokens), economics as a field essentially dies - the ecology of limited resources = economics - "green consumerism" is consuming alternatives not consuming less - "green consumerism" = retail therapy -- killing people is considered very valuable in the international economic system - arms exports account for more than half the trade surplus of the developed economies - but the death, homelessness, injury, poverty, starvation, caused by the use of these weapons are not even registered as a deficit - the institutions of power are intellectually and spiritually corrupt; participatory democracy is not how it happens - growing worse. -- [based on CBC Futureworld, Marilyn Waring, 1975 NZ MP - Chair of Public Expenditures Committee; NFB 1995 film "Who's Counting?" - author, "Counting for Nothing", May.98]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:36 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Eco_nomics vs. Economics: Open_Notes 3

Social Responsibility Amendment to the US Constitution - the "politics of meaning" is an attempt to change the bottom line in American society from the current definition of what we are looking for in society - productivity and efficiency - (money and power maximization) - we are looking for a new bottom line with love and caring and ethical, spiritual and ecological sensitivity as a part of the definition of a productive institution.

we are in a deep spiritual and ethical crisis - a hunger for meaning and purpose, a need - central deprivation of meaning and purpose in a world in which selfishness and materialism is reinforced - little opportunity to connect to a framework of meaning and purpose in our own lives - the focus on individual success and power began to create a deep distortion in every aspect of human life, marginalizing love, making solidarity and caring for each other seem like Utopian fantasies, relegating ethical and spiritual values to the weekends and to the margins of society.

we must reject the definitions of realism given to us by the corporate society - we must be "unrealistic" - there is a power in the universe that makes for the possibility of transformation and healing of the world - moving from that which is to that which ought to be - that force is "God" - be unrealistic vs. fitting into the frame of the world that is - religious systems were appropriated by the ruling elites who took religious ideas and manipulated them in the service of the unfair distribution of wealth and power, and given that, religion and spirituality itself became an adjunct to oppressive, feudal, aristocratic and patriarchal systems - that which was most wonderful of spirituality was subverted by the existing systems of power - as a result many rejected religion, went for themselves.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:30 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Eco_nomics vs. Economics: Open_Notes 4

the new freedom purchased by the elimination of spirit was itself deeply flawed - the world of work, maximizing our own advantage, pushing ourselves without regards to the consequences of others - we are learning how not to treat others created in the image of God - society is filled with these values which undermine spirituality - unwilling to challenge the corrupt spiritual and ethical basis of the market society - devastating consequences for everyone - a totally utilitarian, manipulative, technocratic world, "what can I get from you" - the rise of fascism in the 1930s - understood the hunger of the heart - they speak to meaning vs. an economic reading of the situation - its not just the economy, there is a hunger for meaning and purpose in the heart.

Social Responsibility Amendment - corporate charters of 20 years and then renewal upon an "ethical impact report" - workers, community, ecological considerations (ie., FCC Regulations in place today for licensing) - corporate charters to be a covenant with society - building "common ground" means moving to a "higher ground" - reconciling different focii, different groups - articulating the fundamental principles of building a society based on love and caring, recognizing everyone as deserving love and respect. -- [Notes 3,4][based on CBC Futureworld, Michael Lerner, "Politics of Meaning", Tikkun Magazine (Hebrew "to mend the world"), Jun.98]

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:26 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Eco_nomics vs. Economics: Open_Notes 5

increased value of company imperative (stock) -- corporate imperators vs. the social stock (common_share, community ownership) -- corporate stocks (protecting shareholders, etc.) used as a "stockade", a barrier for defense against attack (the excuse used to surround any issue) -- a barrier of stakes driven into the heart of humanity; stock: [archaic] anything lacking life, motion, or feeling; stock: restraining device (psychological warfare), an instrument of punishment vs. stock: progenitor line, the line of descent (the human potential) -- communitarian stake_holders -- the corporation creates nothing, people do - the corporation is the systemic command-control mechanism - the privatization of the assembled intellect.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:24 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Surviving The Bottom Line: Open_Notes 1

living on the bottom line - nothing to offer society - marginalized - off the page, record - at the margin of society - nobody - meaning nothing to society - stoop labour - disemployed; out of work, esp., because of lack of skill, training, or education, rather than because work is unavailable - skill-set outdated - square peg vs. a new round hole - too old to be a young superstar - inappropriate ways to assess an individuals ability and aptitude - at the end-of-the-road, no skills, no education, no job, no family - carried as far as I can go with what I have - journey halted.

inert adj. [L. iners, without skill or art, idle < in-, not + ars (gen. artis), skill, ART] 1 having inertia; without power to move, act, or resist 2 tending to be physically or mentally inactive; dull; slow 3 having few or no active properties - inertia n. [L lack of art or skill, ignorance < iners] 1 Physics; the tendency of matter to remain at rest if at rest, or, if moving, to keep moving in the same direction, unless affected by some outside force 2 a tendency to remain in a fixed condition without change; disinclination to move or act.

erosion, worn down; no foundation to build on - life stripped to the fundamentals, reduced to the simplest truths, thrown into disarray, structure and order gone, safety gone - command-path discontinuity [1 lack of continuity or logical sequence 2 a gap or break] - barely a person in society's definition, view - not invalid, but in_valid [having no force, null or void] - disenfranchised - disengaged from the community; under_class.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:19 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Surviving The Bottom Line: Open_Notes 2](#)

moving down in an up-economy - extraction of wealth - mean business - immediate gratification - short term - beyond sensible limits - hot stocks - the markets hunger for gain is bottomless and millions of us feed that hunger - imposes too high a cost on society, on ordinary people - profits up - social costs up (jobless, retraining, dislocation, etc.) - hard work, loyalty, now meaningless to workers - THE MIDDLE IS FALLING OUT - betrayal - hollowed out and forgotten - lifestyle shrinkage - temporary contingent workers without benefits (no opportunity for benefits) - short-term, job insecurity, no stability - (vs. self-supporting employment, dignity) - not employers but deployers (contract out, deploy services) - dangling in the dark - anchored to the bottom -- Tantalus [L < Gr tantalos] Gr Myth. a king, son of Zeus, doomed in the lower world to stand in water that always recedes when he tries to drink it and under branches of fruit that always remain just out of reach [SAGE tanta_lust, tanta_lies (tantalize; to tease or disappoint by promising or showing something desirable and then withholding it - tantalization n. tantalizer n. - tantalizing adj. 1 that tantalizes 2 tempting; enticing - tantalizingly adv.)]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:16 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Surviving The Bottom Line: Open_Notes 3](#)

the social (re)definition; earn a living, support a family - the American dream is out-of-sight for most; home investments, retirement savings - the dream has become a nightmare -- time bind - husband/wife two careers vs. home life, family -- education = academic conveyor belt to industry - understand how things connect - break down into manageable sizes to understand - consider the whole - confidence motivation vs. past/future failures - develop the whole (believe, think) - success motivation, self-confidence - approach - desire to succeed - different levels of academic foundation - community approach - linking parents/teachers - "teams" concept - ownership performance - people learn in different ways - success support, incentive, learning all the time, doing - connections with the future - active learning - apply yourself - craftsmanship (work) quality - demand 100% excellence - pride, purpose - realize - put into practise - performance.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:13 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Surviving The Bottom Line: Open_Notes 4](#)

sense of order - priority structure - engaging in the community - self-esteem, confidence vs. empty inside - first steps up from despair - development - joint effort (team), family - SHARE THE FRUITS OF GROWTH - partnership and concern - high expectations - demanding academics - technical skills - latitude to innovate - close relationships, collaboration - lift your spirits - sense of family, allegiance = motivation - Wall St. looking at the numbers; missing the reality - employee/corporate long-term connections - value, productivity - "their company" (give it their all) - breaking down barriers - proper use of assets, resources - labour strategy (restructure) - upsize, lift your spirits - think, achieve - invest (self) - insist on good returns - open attitude - open format - adapt careers to family life instead of family life to careers -- [Notes 1,2,3,4][based on PBS, "Surviving the Bottom Line", Feb.12.98]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:10 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Turning Down The Volume: Open_Notes 1](#)

what is the problem that this technology (computers) is the solution? - the culture is drifting in a certain direction - the love of technology - resist where you think it is worthwhile resisting vs. technology - it impacts the way we think about communicating with each other - Marshall McLuhan "the medium is the message" - what we communicate is a function in part of how we communicate - different resonances (ie. card or in person), different meaning - each medium has its own bias, its own way of giving expression to an idea, when you change the medium, you change to some extent the idea (ie., print; TV).

TV generation - a decline in literacy, a different mind, bias - a different way of viewing the world - an interesting set of distinctions - information, knowledge, wisdom -- information = statements about the facts of the world (mostly unnoticed, unmentioned, unreported) - facts become information when we take note of them, speak of them, report them - 1840's information scarcity problem began to be solved (information faster, in diverse forms, ie. telegraphy, photography) developing into our current problem of information overload, information glut, incoherence -- knowledge = organized information - information that leads you into wanting other information - knowing where to go for other information - information that's given in a context, embedded in a frame, so that you can make some sort of sense out of it [knowledge engineering] -- wisdom = a further step where you know what questions that come from other sources of knowledge to address to this knowledge [application].

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:37 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Turning Down The Volume: Open_Notes 2](#)

the intelligent organization is an organization that is skilled at marshaling its information resources and capabilities, transforming information into knowledge, and using this knowledge to sustain and enhance its performance in a restless environment - managing information processes more effectively to achieve these goals.

journalism, education, needs to move away with our obsession of pouring information into ourselves without any meaning - ie. TV news, a world of "and's" not of "because" - no opinions - the world presented as a series of incoherent events - people require a "because" to grasp - media - books, newspapers, magazines - abundance of material to piece together the picture - at the moment we rely on our education to decide what is relevant - yet education today is in the "information business" and the skills to decide are not there, not being taught - "the end of education" - not teaching kids how to think - the need for schools to have some sort of narrative, a story to tell, without which education is meaningless - vitality, meaning needed, a frame, a sense of who we are, culture coherence, a binding narrative.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:35 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Turning Down The Volume: Open_Notes 3](#)

the "battle of values" (ie. left, right, various divisions) has resulted in our society taking the narratives out of the description so that no one is offended - the "balkanization" of America - each group having it's own grievance, it's own bias, wants to tell it's own story - "a nation" requires values, a narrative, it's own story, mythic, people have to believe something is there, an identity - we are becoming more tribal, moving away from finding our common ground; a return to tribalism to find an identity - today the young no longer grasp this vision of common ground, and the "peace narrative" is not a substitute.

major cultural events, ie. the death of Diana, end of Seinfeld series - entertaining, amusing ourselves to death - TV news "show" incl. music - assuring the audience that everything is alright, calm news anchor, commercials, music in place (filters) vs. troubling news, the trembling of history - journalists should be there helping us to understand, there has to be some meaning to our interest vs. trivia - the language of expression is missing, not found - taking a stand, opinions not encouraged by the media, advertisers, politics, etc. (ie. the excuse of journalistic objectivity, conflict of interest rules).

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:32 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Turning Down The Volume: Open_Notes 4](#)

credibility is at stake within politics, the media - a business - spills over into the culture - how we understand our story, who is telling us, and what is their vested interest? - "the purpose of education is to help the young defend themselves from the seductions of eloquence" (-Bertrand Russell) (he was referring to print medium) - the arts of defense taught were rhetoric, logic, literary criticism, grammar - the new medium, ie., TV, computers; graphic messages not linguistic.

commercials as parables, quasi-parables - "all problems are solvable by consumerism, technology, drugs, etc." - how do you teach the young to defend themselves against this? - censorship to enable the young to amass the critical skills? - the Internet poses the problem of "gatekeeping" - democratizing medium, but eliminates the gatekeeping function, ie., school curriculum, organizational reference points, credentials, etc. - public discourse on TV, ie., political debates, religion (star driven, floral arraignments) - attempts at seriousness, show business. -- [Notes 1,2,3,4][based on CBC, Pamela Wallin Live, Dr. Neil Postman, Jul.98]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:28 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

[Adversarial Culture: Open_Notes 1](#)

argument culture "language of war" - confrontation of debate vs. dialogue (so say I vs. so say you) - polarization (black or white) - discussions, law, media, classroom, etc. - media provocation (provocative vs. thought provoking) - media mediated culture - conflict entertainment - war metaphors to describe, understand our interactions with each other - ie. who won, who lost; shooting down my ideas; I'll take a shot at that - opposition, fighting, to approach or accomplish ie., litigation - fundamental warlike stance vs. problems, each other - we demonize people we disagree with - we stop listening, learning from each other.

belief that opposition leads to truth - persuasion by humiliation - "talk show" public discourse - investigative journalism "scandal inflation" - dulling effect, people turn off, tune out - consumership of news declines - important news is ignored - "scandal industry" distractions - media shorthand - reduce to the simplest terms - time constraints - once we view things as two camps it narrows our possible view of solutions - conceptualizations of a fight between two sides - the public expects instant turn-around, responses - ethic of aggression - no good, rapid response = up to no good, deception.

your wrong because I'm right - a vicious circle - zero-sum game - gridlock, ie. politics, law - out of control - over applied - courtroom adversarial tactics permeating, being mirrored in society - adversary culture - metaphor of a legal case is a lens through which we view, approach our relationships with each other - people are not asking what is right but what is defensible in court (deals vs. equity) - undercutting credibility - not questioning, looking for truth.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:28 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Adversarial Culture: Open_Notes 2

some of the opposition is structural - politics, media, law - it is the abuse of it, the automatic, ritualized use of these adversarial approaches, frameworks - press lapdog > watchdog > attack dog - a dog busy attacking is not watching - no serious time-consuming investigation (not adversarial, confrontational enough) of important matters - political abuse, legal discovery system abuse, abuse of the structures there to protect the public - progress is a matter of error and correction.

there is no longer talking and listening - is now talking and waiting to talk - when you are having an argument, you're not trying to understand their point of view, if you hear them say something that has some truth in it you ignore it, when they say something you know you can leap on, that's the one you pick out to respond to - wanting to win the argument - negotiate conflicts so they don't destroy us - our lives - put aside the ethic of aggression (confrontation the best way) - confrontation leads to resistance.

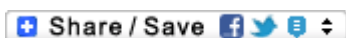
 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:25 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Adversarial Culture: Open_Notes 3

forms of communication - the gender aspect - cultural roles men/women - conversation is an opportunity to make contact with others - men seek confrontation to make contacts, friends (mental matching) - women see conversations as negotiations for closeness (listening, sensitivity) - "our need to complain is the reason for language" (-comedian Lily Tomlin) - admit fault, apologize vs. never admit fault (litigious framework) - there is a difference between a ritualized, automatic response or strategy, to a heartfelt one.

media "ritual opposition" focus - their job to find something wrong - what's the other side vs. what's another side, other sides - can we learn something from another's point of view? - let's pick our fights in a rational way, a rational approach - better results to express our view - not positioning ourselves as the enemy of the other person - focus the confrontation, opposition on the key areas, not everyday events, etc. - e-mail rage due to anonymity - technology role in confrontation - we are all parts of the same community - reinforcement needed vs. polarization - mediation, problem solving approach. -- [Notes 1,2,3][based on CBC, Pamela Wallin Live, Deborah Tannen, author "The Argument Culture, Moving From Debate to Dialogue", Apr.17.98]

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:22 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The World In A Minute: Open_Notes 1

public declining confidence in the media, cresting wave of dissatisfaction, quiet anger, disappointment - media volume increasing, quality decreasing - news judgement, truth? - media seminars, postmortems vs. dirty hands - collective animus vs. media -- "necessary illusions", "manufacturing consent" (1988) - 1930s > propaganda - governments basically the instruments of the rich and powerful - complicity, collusion - participants end up in positions of authority (systemic values internalized) - media_business - the internet rerouting around the media - commercialized in 1995 - systemic control of portals a priority - too powerful a device in the hands of the people > democratization, big changes in the public consciousness vs. 01% owns 50% of the stocks, 10% own most of the rest - 1990s "fairy-tale" economy is exactly that - 5000 Iraqi children die every month to enable Arab (client states) oil profits to flow to the US-Britain, etc. -- [based on CBC, Noam Chomsky, Sep.17.99]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:19 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The World In A Minute: Open Notes 2

journalistic feeding-frenzy - "Watergate envy" lurks in the mind of many a journalist - responsible reporting? - "a new media dynamic," instant deadlines - 24h news channels, Internet, etc. - competitive pressure - anonymous sources used to prejudice the truth, the issue - 2nd hand sources "if true" - driven by the next exclusive - that "kind" of reportage - breaching old rules of good judgement, taste - sloppy reporting - further, faster, less responsible, more pandering to rating boosts - wider forces driving the new news business - tabloid influences - "news business" becoming "show business."

tabloid moments of the new TV age - images aired - icons of the new media - the dumbing down of the media - a fragmenting TV market, blurring the lines between news and the tabloids - entertainment value - the downward slide of mainstream news - profit, lowest common denominator news - "the world in a minute" vs. documentaries - media excesses a symptom - persons not institutions (the real issues) examined - big 3 networks 30% less foreign news than 10 years ago - feeding people what they want to know not what they need to know - WEAPONS OF MASS DISTRACTION - viewer, reader, listener beware! - quality of the information? - question whether to trust the messenger. -- [based on CBC, National Magazine, "Sex, Lies, and the News", May.27.98]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:16 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Media Democracy: Open Notes 1

remote control - how remote are we from our televisions? - we are being told that technology will bring choice, bring control to the viewer, bring democratic access to information - none of that is implied in the technology itself - that is not technology, that is politics - people are primarily "receivers" of information from various media - "interactive TV" - implied control and choice given to the consumer from the producer - full-service networks - TV, Internet (consumerism).

spectrum (corporate control of the public airwaves) - media monopolies - satellites - ownership and control of communications - military and defence systems reserve a major part of the spectrum - now opening up to commercial use, ie. global positioning system - privatization of the public airwaves - private interest vs. public good - communication services (ie. direct-TV)- their version of the future - channel selections, etc. - public TV debate; funding? - government is the only entity that can express the collective, public desire beyond merchandising - when people talk about they don't want the intrusion of government, they are really saying we don't want the intrusion of public affairs into our ability to sell goods and services - disengagement from the public interest for private interest, advantage.

as speech flows to music (the tune society dances to) - control of the message, editors - opinion maker, taker, breaker - media - is it information, communication, knowledge, image, entertainment, power, a paper tiger? - public access TV - every citizen is a reporter - bringing people to the citizenry - make it, don't just watch it - a democratic media - a small piece of the media pie - people need media that informs, empowers, engages them in the democratic process - tells them of the conflicts in society and the solutions - tells them how to get involved - "it's hard not to listen to TV, it has spent so much more time raising us than you" (-Bart Simpson to Homer).

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:10 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Media Democracy: Open Notes 2

invective firestorm consuming all opposition (ie. Rush Limbaugh) commonplace - talking to the majority as if it were the endangered minority - unacknowledged conscience to groupness - more and more surrounded by megawatt "assumptions of being" without intelligence, the coded epithets - the mocking, angry, endless tirades, non-specific slurs vs. these people, those minorities, feminazis, liberals, scumbags, gays, jerks, loonies, foreigners - society drenched in verbal brutality - the human mask; the human, masking... - where are the borders of this cartoon life - an imprisoned one - just one long joke without end?

media democracy - structure of ownership and control has to be changed - community of interest - the Internet - future, downstream architecture, infrastructure? - open platform? - everyone a service provider - immediacy and scope of communication, information - the mechanism that connects one to many and many to one, the inverse of TV - major change in the world due to new ways of communicating - ungovernable in a healthy way - the new media landscape - "The Third Wave" (Alvin, Heidi Toffler) - crave the wave (of change) - whose information? - privileged information, information privilege - an informed democracy - information widely and freely available. -- [Notes 1,2][based on Janine Jackson, Research Director FAIR; Patricia Williams, commentator; Knowledge Network, "Signal to Noise", May.98]

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:07 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Media Democracy: Open Notes 3

the world is a business - a college of corporations - the binding of ownership limitations, social control non-existent - narrowing access, concentrating ownership in fewer hands - media monopolies; consolidation of media companies, mergers in the name of competition across the media spectrum - vertical ownership - content and delivery pipelines (access restricted) - exclusivity (joint ventures, very tight interlocked matrix) - the blending of entertainment and news - Congress 1996 fait-accomplish.

passive reception, acceptance by society - [the TV is on, the mind is off - an instilled public need] - the media that reports to the people on the state of the world has joined up with maximization of share-holder value as a public good when in actuality it is NOT a public good - traditional news value does not determine what is shown - what is good for the media corporation determines what is shown to the public; the FCC, Congressional Oversight Committees should be determining the public interest NOT the corporate interest, but have given the corporations more than they have asked for - the concept of public airwaves has no meaning now - [they are now "private" airwaves] - no rent, lease charged.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:04 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Media Democracy: Open Notes 4

the Internet impact - becoming a network of consumers - the new marketplace, a new mass market audience - [being overwhelmed by the corporations - the flooding out of existence of any opposing voices, the sheer weight, the volume a burden to most] - ISP joint-ventures with media-giants; less diversity, less opinions - does not reflect the social conscience - content analysis non-existent - the Internet does at this moment present analysis from a diversity of sources but TV is still the largest audience - the majority of [the world] society does not have access to the Internet - rural access to large bodies of information almost non-existent.

political-ideological shrinkage - consolidation of communications - broadcast media, publishing, etc. - economies of scale - formats, sterilization of content - revenue potential (advertising) - syndication vs. media jobs - local programming disappearing - a centralization of power, ie., "Metro Networks" supplying content to over 400 stations; consumer acceptance of media "goods and services" - [national public radio and public television does exist as an alternative voice but is usually one of the consensus view presented another way - not a large dissenting voice, a small one maybe, callers views are expressed as on talk shows but usually with a host and/or expert, etc. ready to dismiss or expand as needed, with

the topic at hand chosen for public consumption] -- an "audience network" needed - the public airwaves are owned by the public - part of the common_wealth - 70-80B\$ estimated worth of the airwaves not being paid by the corporations - a public "fair_share" non-existent. -- [Notes 3,4][based on NPR, State of the Nation, Sep.13.99]



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:57 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

[Mammon or Messiah: MM Book 1 Chapter 2-17](#)

[Mammon or Messiah: MM Book 1 Chapter 2-17](#)

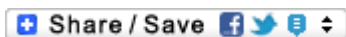


Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:12 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The Dissociated Path: Open_Notes 1](#)

the sins of the rich are in their riches, the sins of the poor are in their poverty -- indolent contentment - ideals found in pleasure, the pursuit of gain -- rejection of the burden: society does not want to know - they are consumed with self - surrounded by comfort vs. the wounding of society -- personal gain at the expense of others - everything designed to survive at the expense of something else - adversarial; evil -- values of their OWN reasoning.

MEDIA = Media-evilism (mediaeval, new dark ages).
Controlling massive communications operations yields great power:
Dialogue Template - opaque, overseer interface [the SAGE];
Dialogue Control - represents single items [gov]
(actors, world stage (fictional play for public consumption);
Dialogue Unit - coordinator, transformations [pr, corporate media];
vs. subDialogue - independent and underground views and media.

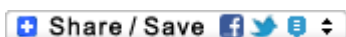


Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:54 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The Dissociated Path: Open_Notes 2](#)

MEDIA = Communicable Disease (our sick minds, society/public mind) - Media, entertainment etc., highly spiced work, able to attract and amuse the mind but incapable of elevating and inspiring it - dumbing down effect - (pornography, violence, fantasy) - moral crisis, unrest -- dis_sociation, 1 a split in the conscious process in which a group of mental activities breaks away from the main stream of consciousness and functions as a separate unit, as if belonging to another person (possessed) 2 the abnormal separation of related ideas, thoughts, or emotions.

absorbing our minds and memories (> assimilation - the absorption and incorporation of nutritive elements) - empoison [1 (archaic) to make poisonous; taint or corrupt 2 to embitter; envenom]; venom -ous -media -- anti-venom serum needed (subDialogue extraction) - affected (1 attacked by disease 2 influenced; acted upon 3 emotionally moved or touched) > affective awareness (of, or arising from affects, or feelings; emotional) vs. affectless infection (lacking emotion, feeling, passion, etc.) > sentinel [L. sentire, to feel, sense] to guard, watch.



Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:51 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Dissociated Path: Open_Notes 3

feeding on us - "media vacuum" slowly sucking the very life out of us - atmosphere of unrest, revolution, reprisals - dissociated press (separated from truth) - travesty generators - media circus - the press making the news, not reporting it only - gossip, rumour, innuendo, manipulation of facts - business agenda (ratings, sales) - acceptance by politics/society - THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS - manufactured consent, compliance - THE DE-EVALUATION OF HUMANITY.

seduction and rape of our minds - mediagenic (attractive, appealing) - media-eugenics - visual splendor of society outshines the oppression that makes it possible - flooding the mind - washing away all sensibility -- part of the emotion but removed from the reality - detached from the consequences (ie., tv news audience; investments) - mental junk-food - information fatigue syndrome - "sos" stuck on stupid - the universal element in the soul of man burns dimly - trance-formation of society - when one enters the realm of the dream the rules of reason are suspended - the blurring of the line between life and entertainment - you can judge a society (or an individual) by how it entertains itself.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:49 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Dissociated Path: Open_Notes 4

learned behaviour - operant behaviour, push the buttons - demanding a never-ending sacrifice to the State - repetitive epic -- epistasis (genetics; the suppression of gene expression by one or more other genes) of thought; a stopping, to place upon, to stand -- ossify vt. [1 to change or develop into bone 2 to settle or fix rigidly in a practise, custom, attitude, etc.] - ossification n. (bone-head); Ossuary n. -aries [a container, as an urn, vault, etc., for the bones of the dead.

fasting vs. media - risk of exposure (guard your mind, erase the imprints) - bone of contention [a matter for argument; subject about which there is disagreement] - shifting sensory balance - re-calibrate the sensors - our perception/reality is a series of images - change the images, alter the perception - square the circle of deception - look for the reasons - the dark end of the street - our only weapon is our refusal - "still" on a restless planet; on a restless planet they are still - comprehensive epidemic prevention strategy - strategic implementation -- civilization = civil_realization vs. the consensus textbook (media), ie., reading a newspaper, vastly different conclusions (perceptual filters) - framework, worldview - our best defence in a good intelligence system - information warfare - info-weaponry -- awake to a critical awareness vs. the Gospel of Consumption.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:44 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Dissociated Path: Open_Notes 5

the sad weight of the world - the dismal science of economics -- not a celebration of life but a "sale"bration - culture of commodity - the creation and promotion of images (celebrities, etc.) - consumers (or the masses) don't respond to reason but to deeply embedded social symbols - easily swayed by emotional appeals of advertisers (obedience, etc.) - you're not stylish or ostentatious enough - cooptation - society is trying to make us discontented with everything we do and insecure about who we are - if people thought about real issues and needs instead of manufactured desires, the economy would collapse and we would have total anarchy.

buy distractions from a simple life - constant change - traditional loyalties and ties have all been challenged or superseded by the allure of the new (way of walking) - newer equals better equals must have (newer = better = must have) -- affluenza (an unhappy condition of overload, debt, anxiety and waste resulting from the dogged pursuit of more) -- unrest of the Human Spirit - a sense of meaninglessness, disenchantment, a search for ultimate meaning - increasingly de-personalized life - loss of identity - you have to be strong enough to balance the influence with your instincts and wisdom or you will be overwhelmed.

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:40 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The Dissociated Path: Open Notes 6](#)

the press turns over the rock to find the dirt; the pulpit seemingly seeks to turn over the dirt to find the rock - all the problems in the world are due to a lack of spiritual character - basic corrupt cravings and materialistic values - when the appeal of a higher moral purpose is absent, men seek their own sensual satisfaction (unfortunately we are not very good at being satisfied).

avon [H5771 < avon {aw-vone'} or < avown (2 Kings 7:9; Psalm 51:5 [7]) {aw-vone'}; from H5753; perversity, ie., (moral) evil: fault, iniquity, mischief, punishment (of iniquity), sin -- H5753 < avah {aw-vaw'} a primitive root; to crook, literally or figuratively (as follows): do amiss, bow down, make crooked, commit iniquity, pervert, (do) perverse(-ly), trouble, X turn, do wickedly, do wrong -- H5754 < avvah {av-vaw'} intensive from H5753 abbreviated; overthrow: X overturn] .

temples of cosmetic perfection - erotic body worship - extreme images - the skeletonization of Hollywood - look like a winner, play like a winner - presentation sells - style but no substance - if you look good you are good - human worth reduced to how well you fit into your jeans -- how beautiful mankind is...

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:35 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The Dissociated Path: Open Notes 7](#)

ascribe vt. [1 to assign (to a supposed cause); impute; attribute 2 to regard as belonging (to) or coming from someone] - AScriptive adj. [designating a society, group, etc. in which status is based on a predetermined factor, as age, sex, or race, and not on individual achievement] -- natural selection - a purveyor of biological determinism - a supporter of existing social systems - privilege - social acceptance (social standing, sexual identity, etc.) - artificial labels - labels negate humanity.

take a holiday from reality - mind numbing intoxicants - one gram and you won't give a damn - sick of seeing my reflection at the bottom of the toilet - life distorted by the bottom of a bottle - wallowing in self-pity, pretending to be someone else - living and acting as if life is a dead-end - if you act it long enough, you become it - you must be careful what you pretend to be, because in the end, you are what you pretend to be.

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:31 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The Dissociated Path: Open Notes 8](#)

ungrateful arrogance - the inhumane village - poverty, inequality, environmental damage, etc. -- Psalms 49:11 Their inward thought [is, that] their houses [shall continue] for ever, [and] their dwelling places to all generations; they call [their] lands after their own names. 12 Nevertheless man [being] in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts [that] perish. 13 This their way [is] their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah -- monetary demesne [di main; -meen] [possession; estate; region; domain] - radical re-design of the whole world needed vs. an increasingly consumerist, materialistic global culture.

level of trust, level of tolerance decreasing - bigoted sentiments - walking around as a stranger, desperate for contact, slipping into despair - fitness of society vs. survival of the fittest - no growth, just sprouts, on the seedy side of town - debt, taxes - walking a very narrow margin - economic oppression - desperate poverty, destitution - subsistence, peasant community -- economic destiny in our own hands - economic cooperation, enterprise - family-friendly policies - ownership not necessary - access - stewardship for future generations - it's what you give back - not just what you take out.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:25 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Dissociated Path: Open_Notes 9

the road to hell is paved with good intentions - the misapplication of technology by unstable minds - our technology has surpassed our humanity - ubiquitous computation (omnipresent, capacity of being) - not a divine comedy but a demonic comedy - demon_ocracy - depredation of meaning and purpose - depredation (the act of plundering, laying waste; depredator).

Psalms 64:2 Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity: 3 Who whet their tongue like a sword, [and] bend [their bows to shoot] their arrows, [even] bitter words: 4 That they may shoot in secret at the perfect: suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not. 5 They encourage themselves [in] an evil matter: they commune of laying snares privily; they say, Who shall see them? 6 They search out iniquities; they accomplish a diligent search: both the inward [thought] of every one [of them], and the heart, [is] deep.

controller #1, #2... unorthodoxy threatens society - unsettling to the social will - uncertainty vs. a moulded society - operon n. [$< L$ operare, to work; a cluster of genes, with related functions acting as a coordinated unit controlled by a regulatory gene] - an uncompromising political vocabulary - campaign financing - buying the results - oligarchy n. -garchies [1 a form of government in which the ruling power belongs to a few persons 2 a state governed in this way 3 the person ruling such a state]; oligarchic, oligarchical adj. - (the) oligarch n. [the rulers].

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:22 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Dissociated Path: Open_Notes 10

government = command and control system maintained by laws and enforced by threat of penalty [monetary, freedom] - the threat is maintained by armed force [police, military] - the entity by which the corporate guardian elite control a multi-layered society and the relations domestic and foreign of that society - the control necessary for the achievement of alliancersatz-- the abrogation of democracy - the elected - elected to represent society; giving away control, power to the multinationals - global economy - treason to society, electorate.

a conditioned society - free from tangles - adherents of the consensus - homeo(stasis) n. homeostatic adj. [any analogous maintenance of stability or equilibrium, as within a social group] -- solubility [the quality, condition, or extent of being soluble; capability of being dissolved]; solubilize [to make or become soluble, dissolve] - dissolve vs. solve, dissolution vs. solution - the social solvent [to be able to pay all one's debts or meet all responsibilities imposed by society = solvency vs. insolvent].

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:18 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Dissociated Path: Open_Notes 11

associate(-ion) vs. dissociable, dissociate(-ion) -- Svengali (the evil hypnotist, Svengali, in the novel Trilby (1894) by Du Maurier) - [a person who attempts to dominate another, usually with evil or selfish intentions] - sucking, puffing on the cigarette of life (lit by the fires in the mind of man) vs. refined mind (freed from impurities) - "mutton heads" sheep to the slaughter - another politic(kle), why am I not laughing? - politic(ked-off) - backstroking in the big toilet bowl.

the most powerful should be servant of all - where power is separated from responsibility, it is corrupted - "the law should be stable, but should never stand still" (-Oliver Wendell Holmes) - two sets of laws, one for the rich, one for the poor; standing still for privilege - in the eyes of the law all are equal - but the eyes of the law are human eyes, with the same

prejudices - until we can see each other as equals the law will reflect what we see -- those in control (the SAGE) have power over the law.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:14 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

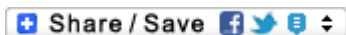
Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

[Mammon or Messiah research](#)

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

[The Dissociated Path: Open_Notes 12](#)

free-market capitalism needs a Bill of Rights vs. crony capitalism -- social democracy vs. commercial democracy - social economic council; consensus, strategy; national accord; social justice; efficiency; cooperation; public and private consensus, commitment -- Bull Market = GOLDEN CALF - holding your interest - monetarily, systemically, spiritually - money symbolizes power - compassion does not fit into the equation - enterprise without conscience, personal and commercial - corporate poachers - venture (vulture) capitalism - banking merger-mania (service scales, globalization); less "channels of delivery" (branches); public choosing electronic banking - world financial landscapes changing - (re)establishing global position, large capital bases to secure large development deals - global financial momentum vs. national governments, merger objections -- economic, social cohesion - just-in-time based technology (distribution) - value-chained system - economic system substrates -- market psychology, systems on systems = virtual commodity based system - promise of implied worth -- virtual layers -- the market does not reflect reality; it reflects the imagined reality of others - MOLTEN IMAGE (shifting, shaped) - global (in)securities - figures don't lie, but liars figure - criminals purchasing respectability.

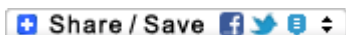
 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:10 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The Dissociated Path: Open_Notes 13](#)

infinite growth predicated upon a finite resource = cancerous; the world's society has a terminal disease; feeding on itself - not ballistic growth but cannibalistic growth - there is nothing more dangerous than a misinformed democracy - mattoidal world-view: unbalanced (psychotic) - mass psychosis (the social personality is very seriously disorganized, contact with reality impaired) - the "social design" - society shrink wrapped - the one who can swallow the madness of this world is truly insane - brain damaged, unusable, and its failure to work is due to poor [design] rather than some accident - deliberately crippled in some way - brain dead - terminal design failure rather than malfunction or simple stupidity.

raising themselves by lowering others - willing to jeopardize the future for present advantage - the rape of mother_earth - there is more than rain falling in the forest - if we have to consume our way into prosperity the environment will never survive - "ethical consumerism" - complimentary eco(logy)(nomy) - increased responsibility - "home_remedy" - the appropriate use of technology - simple, natural approaches -- selfish consumerism = a symptom of the infectious illness of our society.

 Share / Save

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:05 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Dissociated Path: Open_Notes 14

"You never change anything by fighting the existing; to change something, build a new model and make the existing one obsolete" (-Buckminster Fuller) - life pushed to the limits of endurance - a world of pure desolation and brutal extremes - where survival is a constant risk - near to the absolute limit - the outer reaches of life - terminators vs. protectors - surrounded by fragile technology - illusion of safety and comfort - we all have to agree on what is real for it all to work; what holds us together.

paranoia is just reality on a finer scale - the issue is not if you are paranoid but if you are paranoid enough - a shift of paradigms requires not only an expansion of our perceptions and ways of thinking, but also of our values - "I live simply so that others may simply live" (-M. Ghandi) -- "a new paradigm - self-assertion to integration - as far as thinking is concerned, a shift from the rational to the intuitive, from analysis to synthesis, from reductionism to holism, from linear to nonlinear thinking - as far as values are concerned, a corresponding shift from competition to cooperation, from expansion to conservation, from quantity to quality, from domination to partnership" (-unknown).

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:59 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Dissociated Path: Open_Notes 15

progress - moving forward - but walking on the backs of every suffering human being on the planet - who will give in first, the body or the lash? - real peace is not just the absence of conflict, it is the presence of justice vs. deterred by political self-interest - we have to grow, progress - not the false way of this world - infinite growth based on finite resources - needless duplication, competition, squandering of resources, waste -- ONLY ONE WAY (not many ways, confusion, cosmetic changes) = infinite growth based on infinite, eternal resources = Purchased, Reproved Of God, Righteousness, Established in the present truth, Sanctified, Saved = PROGRESS -- "The World Tomorrow", God's sustainable design; equity - redesign of society vs. "The World Today", unsustainable design; no equity; Satan's system - adversarial, confusion, waste, consumption, pollution -- BETRAYAL OF SCIENCE AND REASON - Covenant Assembly First Estate (Faith of the Fallen) - man's way = a false, artificial reality - moulded, shaped by society vs. the Master Potter (crucible of life - 2 Cor 4:7 "earthen vessels."

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:55 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Dissociated Path: Open_Notes 16

multiple (multi-tasking) long-term mentation modality (deep thought, research, knowledge-understanding-wisdom) vs. short-term mentation, shallow, partial knowledge, blind acceptance (so prevalent in our society and religions, ie., haste, short-term gain, prejudgements, impatience, quick answers given and received without thought, situational, scrapbook information, most people believe but do not know, meme's) -- SAGE control (reality infected with a virus - the SAGE virus [= the "emmonic": emotion and money married together]; all aspects of the social message (apotheosis) - power and control -- monied individualism (in reality "insecure self sufficiency", selfishness, private property, accumulation of wealth) used to divide and destroy community (secure self-sufficiency) labelled "freedom" and "democracy" -- intelligence is a matter of focus and application (knowledge and wisdom); brilliance or genius is the result -- "the most severe crisis on the earth today is the human mind - the focus on the economy and economic value equates brain damage - the biosphere is our living - the economy should be inside the biosphere, not the biosphere inside the economy" (-David Suzuki) -- basic needs are NOT negotiable.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:51 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monday, October 5, 2009

Mammon or Messiah: MM Book 1 Chapter 5-9

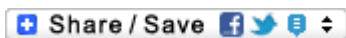
Mammon or Messiah: MM Book 1 Chapter 5-9



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:54 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monetary Reform - Need and Method (excerpt 2 (1941))

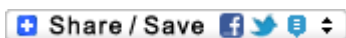
the present System is contrary to the Laws of God, inasmuch as it is predicated on the charging of usury (interest) -- it is impractical, inasmuch as it creates debt which is physically impossible of payment, and which results in a long chain of inequities -- the fact that, under the present System, those who control the manufacture and issue of money wield a power actually superior to the power of Government, thus rendering Democracy inoperative -- there should be no "mystery" about money - coins, bills and bank credit - than about any other manufactured product - "money" is simply the "manufactured product" of the banking system - a product which they "rent out" to the public for the transaction of business -- each and every time a bank makes a loan, (or purchases securities) new bank credit is created - new deposits - brand new "money" - it is not necessary that there be in existence a dollar of physical money, (coins and bills) for every dollar of "deposits" - the bulk of the deposits arise out of the action of the banks themselves, for, by granting loans, allowing money to be drawn on an overdraft, or purchasing securities, a bank creates a credit in its books which is the equivalent of a deposit, and a deposit is "Money" - the great bulk of "money" has no physical existence - broadly speaking, all new money comes out of a bank in the form of loans - all the money in existence has at one time been loaned by a bank -- it is a common fallacy to believe that the money which banks lend to the public belongs to their depositors - IT POSITIVELY DOES NOT - they lend brand new money which they create for the purpose - the manufacturing process consists of making an entry in their books - when a bank loan is re-paid the money is destroyed or "goes out of existence" -- and this brings us squarely face-to-face with the basic truth that under the present Monetary System ALL MONEY IS DEBT - debt on the part of the public to the banks - debt at INTEREST.



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:47 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monetary Reform - Need and Method (excerpt 2 (1941)) con't

bearing in mind the tremendous all-embracing importance of money in our National Economy, it is incredible that the complete control of its issue and volume should be vested in privately-owned, profit-taking institutions -- the universal "licence to live" has been made the exclusive prerogative of privately-owned banks, and utilized solely for profit-making purposes, with little or no regard for the needs of the people or the good of the country -- consider well the POWER this confers upon them - a power actually superior, in matters economic, to the power of Government - the entire situation is preposterous and constitutes a scathing indictment of our collective intelligence, because from this situation has been born the accursed paradox of, "poverty amidst plenty" - financial poverty amidst potential physical abundance -- the present system is impractical because it produces unpayable debt - it is established that all money is created by banks - it all bears interest; therefore, the public is supposed to pay back to the banks a greater sum of money than was originally created and issued by the banks, (the principal, plus the interest) - obviously an impossibility as the public cannot manufacture money - actually, what really happens is that the public (as a whole) goes back to the banks to borrow more money to pay the interest on the money they borrowed before [control, continuity] - it is a never ending vicious spiral that piles up unthinkable figures of utterly unpayable debt, (as witness our national debt today). -- [Monetary Reform - Need and Method (excerpt 2 (1941)) based on/excerpt: British-Israel-World Federation (Canada) Pamphlet, September, 1941]



Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:45 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monetary Reform - Need and Method (excerpt 1 (1939))

"Thou shalt not lend upon usury to thy brother; usury of money, usury of victuals, usury of anything that is lent upon usury" - Deut. 23:19-20 and Lev. 25:35-37 -- exacting interest - a false system of economy - such a system obviously heavily penalises the "have not's" in favor of those who "have", bringing widespread discontent and envy, and giving greater power to those already in power and greater servitude to those who serve, the process being progressively and continuously cumulative, going from bad to worse - usury therefore "devours poor men's houses" for the benefit and profit of the rich - ultimate impossibility of the usury system - the money to repay does not exist - any system based in any manner upon usury is certain to fail - money is credit created out of nothing - banks create credit; they lend out what they themselves do not possess and charge a nice sum for it.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:42 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monetary Reform - Need and Method (excerpt 1 (1939)) con't

"just balances, just weights" (Lev. 19:35-36) - the whole total of the true_wealth of the confederation as security - full monetary security - equitable backing of the whole common_wealth -- employment of an entirely new form of "money" which cannot be used for anything except simple exchange (and which can only be the servant of the people; not their master, as today) vs.money as a limited "commodity", having value in itself - its limitation often causes a glut of goods made for our use but remaining unsold through lack of purchasing power in the hands of the people - to remedy this a full supply of money should always be put into circulation so that every available product and service can be utilized unhampered - the money thus issued must also be in the form of "permits to purchase", or "tokens of exchange", having absolutely no value in themselves (ie., ration coupons) - these, although essential for the purpose to which they are applied, are valueless in themselves; and, when used, they become virtually so much waste paper - furthermore, if they are still unused at the time of their expiry date they become equally valueless and useless, more coupons then being issued freely to the holder to cover a man's necessities during the ensuing period - the issue and control must be solely by the community as authoritative permits to all lawful citizens for the purchase of the communities goods and services - the community to ensure that enough of this token-money is issued weekly or monthly and put into circulation to meet every communitarian or individual need, and to enable all goods on the market to become completely absorbed by the public without waste or loss.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:40 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monetary Reform - Need and Method (excerpt 1 (1939)) con't

a communities true_wealth consists of the amount of useful goods and services which its united population can produce and enjoy - the two fundamental factors of eco_nomics are production and distribution - in order to pour real_wealth into the community a maximum production of useful commodities must be encouraged in every possible way - every new useful enterprise must be provided with capital as freely as possible - the moment a new enterprise opens, it employs labor, brings wages, and begins pouring real_wealth into the community in the form of needed goods (the enterprise belongs to all who works in it); the enterprise stands as a community asset, real tangible wealth; free money loaned for useful and constructive purpose - secondly, the distribution of all available goods and services must never be allowed to be hampered through lack of purchasing power in the hands of the people - to prevent this, the community should always issue and put into circulation sufficient money to allow people to absorb every commodity and service available, lest badly-needed goods go to rust, moth, or rot on warehouse shelves -- to effect an equal balance of purchasing power with production the community would need to know two things: firstly, the community stock and production of goods and services available over a given period; secondly, the total amount of wages or purchasing power put into circulation during that period - then if stock and production together exceeded the communities purchasing power, the community would only need to put sufficient additional money into circulation to enable all goods and services to be absorbed and used profitably without waste.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:38 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monetary Reform - Need and Method (excerpt 1 (1939)) con't

a new wage system - every employer to issue a weekly payment certificate both to himself and to his workers in proportion to the hours worked or the work done - every man would then take this certificate to the local money-issue office, receiving a weekly book or supply of money coupons -- if, six months later, the total communitarian production figure had increased materially, the community would then authorize the issue of money coupons to an increased wage rate per hour - in this way the money issue could always be kept on a level with the goods and services available at any particular time - any person who was a good citizen and engaged in any kind of bona fide work for the well-being of the community would be recognized and given a certificate to draw his weekly or monthly money-issue, no matter what his call or vocation in life might be - if a man is faithfully serving the community in any capacity at all he should be entitled to his share of the communities production of goods, at whatever rate that service might be deemed to be worth - some people manufacture goods, some people produce services, some write poetry, some can serve in artistic beauties; no matter what the labor may be, if it is a service which others want and appreciate, then it is a contribution towards the whole, and should receive a proportionate share of the whole -- a further outworking of this system would be as follows: the wage-earner would spend his coupon-money in the shops; then the latter would add up their total weekly receipts of coupons, which were worth x-amount before spending, but would now be only so much useless paper - the shop-keeper would go to the money-office with the now-useless paper and ask for a re-issue of a similar amount of new valid money-coupons wherewith to buy his further goods for sale and trade.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:35 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monetary Reform - Need and Method (excerpt 1 (1939)) con't

our society has been greatly encouraged by the government to save; but saving and hoarding our present type of money (itself a limited and valuable commodity) only accentuates the evil of insufficient money circulating to keep trade moving - it is a fear of illness, old age, or future want, which usually causes men to indulge in undue saving or money-hoarding - but if a full livelihood could be guaranteed for all the aged, and for the needy, and for the sick, then the fear of old age and illness would vanish, making saving unnecessary - the simplest system to check undue money-hoarding would only waste paper - this would enforce full spending, vastly improving trade and benefiting everyone.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:33 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Monetary Reform - Need and Method (excerpt 1 (1939)) con't

the scriptures teach that "if any man would not work, neither should he eat" - therefore those living as wilful parasites, making others work for them unjustly, should be refused money-issues as long as they persist in unnecessary idleness - usury enables a man to do this, as today; but since it is an unjust means of living at other people's expense it is banned in God's Law - under the monetary system outlined above, it would become absolutely impossible for an idle man or a bad citizen to obtain food and clothing - on the other hand any man who has faithfully executed his week's work would be justly entitled to, and would receive from the community his weekly or monthly coupon-money or permits to purchase all he needs - if he were ill, that would be taken into consideration and he would still get it just the same - if he were too old to work he would get it also; just the same - thus a full livelihood would always be secured at all times for all good citizens. -- [Monetary Reform - Need and Method (excerpt 1 (1939)) based on (with inserts)/excerpt: John S. Fox, "Today, Tomorrow and the Great Beyond", 1939, 2nd edn. 1948]

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [11:32 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Sunday, October 4, 2009

[The Re_version 1](#)

the maintenance of the middle class is no longer a priority-necessity to the SAGE, ie., jobs moving offshore - the wealthy and corporations are bypassing the nation - the competitive advantage excuse - the abrogation of responsibility, corporate citizenship - the new information economy - majority left behind - new misery belts surrounding the increased wealth, the upper-income vested interest -- the mutual-fund promise (unsecured monies; scheme, imagined vested-interest, since late-80s) replacing big_money with small_money (low-interest savings, pensions, retirement funds, etc.) to maintain the system while the big_money moves abroad, maintaining the image and confidence before the planned collapse - mom-and-pop digging their own graves -- the new "pods" of wealth, the emerging "corporate city-states" (the new "elevated" cities; society eclipsed) vs. true social roots; sharing vs. accumulation, disparities (and the results engendered).

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:16 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The Re_version 2](#)

we have to engage the communitas - the community eco_nomic model; true prosperity; cooperation vs. cooptive false prosperity; personal and community equity vs. impersonal corporate, product equity - share what you know, learn what you don't -- intellectual and physical property - freely you have received, freely give -- fellowship in all things - God is the owner of all things (the only copyright belongs to God) - the honor of stewardship, entrusted by God -- real sufficiency vs. an artificial construct - trust in, have confidence in yourself and community vs. trust, confidence in the system - tangible assets (family, community) are the real wealth - the belief that investing in the system will ensure that the system will take care of you is FALSE - we see this everyday - there is no security in adversity - there is no respect for values where there is only monied value.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:14 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[The Re_version 3](#)

regain your humanity (the prosperity promised by God) and all else will follow - "seek first the Kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you" - creating citizenship, true individualism - one body, many parts, all interdependent and responsible - character in the image and likeness of God - the application of knowledge (wisdom) - one institution (community networks; the COMMONS); sensitivity to the world around us; habitat - perspective vs. an incoherent world - a deeper sense of culture and life - profit, competition are evil words, selfish motivation vs. non-profit communitarian values (a new learning environment) -- the challenge is humanity - what we can give NOT what we can take, or said another way, what can we give? NOT what can we take? -- together we will create our future - enter the COMMONS -- persEquity [personal wealth of mind and contribution]: the acknowledged work ethic of the individual to participate in the advancement of Humankind in common cause with the environment to the best of one's ability.

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:12 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Re_version 4

Money: inversion of dominion [inverted dominion = domination] -- inverted persEquity - capital wealth vs. wealth humankind -- false-usurper spirit vs. humanity -- debt = controlling factor; interest = continuity factor -- freedom determined by the amount of money in your pocket -- make the money, don't let it make you -- if money talks, let it talk in the right way -- life's worth = money; no money = no worth -- life reduced to a matter of money; work_earn_buy: the "w_e_b" of life -- honour nothing, devour everything - ending vs. mending -- (ready) to destroy, for a little (ready) cash in pocket -- life shouldn't be printed on a dollar bill -- how bounteous mankind is...

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:09 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Re_version 5

Economics: the Devil's Commandments [the love (friendship; associate) of money is the root of all evil] - natural love replaced [need(s) provision replacement] -- time_equity [work contribution] for society (in whatever field and degree of education attained) appreciated in the concept of persEquity will replace the payment of money and the profit motive in securing for the individual and the communitarian entity the goods and services that will be available for all on an equal basis -- the persEquity of Humankind has to replace the SAGE-Corporate creation of wealth concept that has resulted in the inequities and wars of past and present, that has raped the Earth, that has held people down under layers of government, all for the artificial god of man, which is money - the artificial symbiosis of society (threaded by money) = parasitism; Mammonas [of Aramaic origin (confidence, ie., wealth, personified) 1 mammon, treasure, riches (where it is personified and opposed to God) Strong's Concordance no. 3126] -- communitarian support of people who, in their varying fields of interest, are working toward creating a world where all people: are free; exercise their God-given inalienable rights; respect the opinions, beliefs, and knowledge of others; respect our Earth; are allowed to feed, clothe and shelter themselves.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:05 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Privation of Power and the Power of Privatization 1

the process of privation of power within human societies is linked historically to the privation of the use of the land, as well as of key resources which would allow autonomy and self-support - this was achieved in the North by means of a lengthy process of erosion of local political structures; through a growing involvement of the State; through the introduction of centralizing technologies, the intensive use of resources, the introduction of wage labor and the monetarization of all transactions.

in the South the process was more accelerated, and was based upon the imposition of "modern" policies of development, designed to mould the societies of the so-called Third World in such a way as to make them "functional" for the economic and social structures of the dominant regions of the North - as Nicholas Hildyard (The Ecologist) points out, "it should come as no surprise that the principal agents and beneficiaries of the process should be the corporate bureaucrats (including the State) to whom the power which once belonged to the communities was transferred."

in Latin America the operation was drastic and the effects imposing - ecological imbalance was the main tool for consolidating a conquest which would otherwise have been politically untenable - the only way in which a handful of men could maintain a lasting hold over an entire people, was by destroying that society's means of subsistence - taking them by surprise, not only by their conduct which was characterized by greed and the need to possess, but also because of their violent, depredatory technologies, the conquistadors gained control of everything which they considered to be of value, then distributed the land (among themselves) and enslaved the local population - the possibilities offered by a colonial market stimulated the transformation of society, which heretofore had been self-sufficient, autonomous and self-determined - the process was unleashed against a big majority in Europe, and in the colonial world, against all.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:01 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Sunday, October 4, 2009

Privation of Power and the Power of Privatization 2

the industrial revolution meant that significant (and growing) percentages of rural people were swept, in one wave after another, away from the environment in which they had developed over centuries, while the rest of the population was forced to become full-time laborers, becoming wage-earners and losing their relative self-sufficiency and autonomy - over a long period of time, which in many areas is still in effect, those displaced numbered in the millions - "modern times" were built on the backs of millions of slave (or semi-enslaved) laborers, who excavated tunnels, laid railway lines, built bridges and ports, and built cities or industrial facilities - at the same time, an ever-increasing number of people are relegated to the side-lines of society, forced to find refuge in barracks or emergency shelters, thanks to a numbing struggle for survival, with no future or stable livelihood in sight - the "system" spawns them, uses them, marginalizes them, and fights them - and finally, it accuses them of being responsible for the degradation of the environment, as if their sheer numbers could explain the pressure upon non-renewable resources.

the appropriation of the land, excluding from it those who worked the land or the indigenous peoples who cultivated crops there, was a bone of contention and a source of confrontation - but the most radical part of the industrial society project revolved around making the masses "free" citizens, while actually reducing them to the condition of producer-consumers, putting society at the service of a system dedicated to producing surpluses - production and consumption, that is to say, the economy, joined forces, putting an end to the last vestiges of self-sufficiency - the commercialization of consumer goods took the place of a dynamic system of barter for goods and services, replacing it with an exchange of goods for metal.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [8:58 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Privation of Power and the Power of Privatization 3

an alienating leisure, transformed into yet another consumer product, displaced the previous kinds of leisure, which were participatory, hedonistic, lucid and at the same time, rooted in the social life of the individual - this gave rise to youth sub-cultures and a growing stratification of life along social, sexual and age lines - the new morality trumpeted the benefits of growth, of the triumph and success of the individual as well as preaching progress, the concept of savings and the entrepreneurial spirit, to the detriment of such traits as reciprocity, cooperation and solidarity - this was compounded by an educational system based upon the direct transmission of knowledge, experiences, techniques and moral codes - what resulted were schools that were alienating and alienated, factories of precisely the kind of citizens without imagination or rebellion which such a system demanded.

[Privation of Power and the Power of Privatization 1,2,3 excerpted from: Contribution to "Balancing the Future", Amsterdam 9-13 May 1993, BUILDING THE FUTURE, Karin Nansen, Ruben Prieto, Silvia Ribeiro; Third World ecologists]

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [8:54 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Saturday, October 3, 2009

[Mammon or Messiah: MM Book 1 Chapter 5-4](#)

[Mammon or Messiah: MM Book 1 Chapter 5-4](#)

Book 1 excerpts (link)



Posted by mammonmessiah at [9:11 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Early Indicators:](#)

the Trilateral Commission ... here is an international group of the western world's most powerful bankers, media leaders, scholars and government officials bent on radically changing the world in which we live ... what this non-elected group is setting out to do - with permission from no one - will indeed affect the individual freedom and economic status of every individual in the world, particularly the U.S.

economics, especially on a world-wide scale, is usually not very interesting to most people (perhaps, this is one reason that so few people know of the Trilateral Commission) - but since the Bible predicts the basis of power for the final one-world government, the revived form of the Roman Empire, will be centered around economics and trade, this analysis is absolutely imperative.

now I want to be clear at the outset: I am not calling the motives of the commission's members evil - so far as I know, the Trilateralist founders bringing stability and order to world trade - the fact that they stand to make some substantial profits and rise to positions of great political power is, I am sure, considered just rewards for their efforts.

if one doesn't know and believe what God's prophets have forecast about the last stages of history, then there appears to be but one solution for avoiding a holocaust - that solution would be to create some form of a central world government held together by economic interdependence - creating that form of government seems to be the Trilateral Commission's underlying motive.

the Trilateralists have assumed the right to make changes of global significance, changes which affect the freedoms of millions of people - they have done so with no public consultation, no debate, no election - they have brought about these changes in virtual secrecy - they have set out to capture the highest political offices in the U.S., Japan and the Common Market countries in order to make changes in national and international policy - but they have never informed the people in these countries of their plans ... I believe the Trilateralist movement is unwittingly setting the stage for the political-economic one-world system the Bible predicts for the last days ... what the Trilateralists are trying to establish will soon be controlled by the coming world leader - the Antichrist himself. -- [author Hal Linsey, The 1980s: Countdown to Armageddon, 1980]



Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:15 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Early Indicators:

there's a chilling message in John Kenneth Galbraith's latest work: there exists in the U.S. a "fortunate and favoured" elite with extraordinary power to influence events and set policy, whether at the voting booth, in government, or in Corporate America - using a smattering of statistics, many anecdotes, and his clever, hyperbolic style, the Harvard economist analyses how this elite gained strength in the 1980s and how unlikely it is to cede the rewards of its contented existence - espousing a short-term, self-interested mentality, it is threatening the economy's health and presiding over a polarization between haves and have-nots ... even the "scholars, journalists, and professional dissidents" who express sympathy for the excluded and underclass are pawns of the system who "by their dissent ... give a gracing aspect of democracy to the ruling position of the fortunate." -- [books, review "The Ruling Cash", Business Week, May11-1992, The Culture of Contentment, author John Kenneth Galbraith]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:12 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Early Indicators:

... Kai Bird defines this Establishment as those who sit on the "interlocking directorships of corporate America, the federal government, and the country's leading public-policy and philanthropic foundations" ... the Establishment, in Bird's view, "became the stewards of the American national-security state," dominated by the cold war, anti-communist obsessions, a staggeringly costly arms race, and the military-industrial complex. -- [books (review by Jack Patterson), Business Week, Apr27-1992, The Chairman: John J. McCloy, author Kai Bird]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [2:09 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Early Indicators:

... in reality, money, like number and law, is a category of thought - there is a monetary, just as there is a juristic and a mathematical and a technical, thinking of the world-around.

money is the form of intellectual energy in which the ruler will, the political and social, technical and mental, creative power, the craving for a full-sized life, are concentrated - Shaw is entirely right when he says: "the universal regard for money is the one hopeful fact in our civilization ... the two things [money and life] are inseparable: money is the counter that enables life to be distributed socially: it is "life" - what is here described as Civilization, then, is the stage of a Culture at which tradition and personality have lost their immediate effectiveness, and every idea, to be actualized, has to be put into terms of money - at the beginning a man was wealthy because he was powerful - now he is powerful because he has money.

... intellect reaches the throne only when money puts it there ... democracy is the completed equating of money with political power.

through the economic history of every culture there runs a desperate conflict waged by the soil-rooted tradition of a race, by its soul, against the spirit of money ... money aims at mobilizing all things - world-economy is the actualized economy of values that are completely detached in thought from the land, and made fluid - [the increasing intensity of this thinking appears in the economic picture as a growth of the available money-mass, which is abstract and imagined and has nothing to do with the visible supply of gold as ware -- the demonetization (deprived of value) -- the "stiffening" of the money-market, for example, is a purely intellectual process played out in the hands of a small handful of men ... the only steady element is the fact that quantity of money - not to be confused with the stock of tokens and the means of payment - is an alter ego mirroring thought in money]. -- [Oswald Spengler, The Decline of the West, 17th printing 1981; Volume II - Perspectives of World History, 1922]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:59 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Early Indicators:

... the military-industrial complex today commands power far beyond the measure it knew when President Eisenhower warned in his Farewell Address of 1961 against its "unwarranted influence" ... the military-industrial complex has become something like a state within the state. -- [Sanford Gottlieb, essay THE SEVENTIES: Problems and Proposals, 1972]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:57 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Early Indicators:

... the conviction has grown that the corporation has become a system of private government, structured along hierarchical lines very much like a totalitarian state - lacking constitutional guidelines, many threatened to become lawless - their economic power and strength, and the strength of the nation, rested in the hands of a few thousand men in control of the corporate bureaucracy - in ranking the major US corporations and state governments by size of income or revenue, there were about eight private corporations that followed the federal government before any of the fifty states were reached.

In recent years a relatively small oligarchy from the same milieu, whose members deal almost exclusively with each other and possess no ownership relation of any sort, have come to represent "the" power center of the corporation - hence the hope expressed by some corporate defenders that the corporation could be constitutionalized to make it responsive to the wishes of its members, the stockholders, was a rather vain one ... large corporations had come to control a significant part of the economy and of society - indeed as society became increasingly dependent on the corporation, the latter's independence was correspondingly increased - corporate directives and decisions acquired the force of law, as accommodation to that law became the quintessence of adaptability - "self-appointed corporate guardians" emerged, responsible only to themselves - whatever motion they generated in their capacity as corporate managers became the way of validating their own exercise of power. -- [Ben B.Seligman, essay THE SEVENTIES: Problems and Proposals, 1972]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:49 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Early Indicators:

... most of us are greatly skilled at self-exoneration and enormously talented at shifting blame to others - granted, responsibility is widely distributed - there are dishonest persons who perpetuate corruption for profit throughout every level of society - there are those who cheat and lie to consumers and engage in all manner of questionable practises - there are extremists of the Right and of the Left who behave as though hatred and violence will pave the way to a better future - there are those of power and influence who could effect constructive change of our institutions, but who protect their vested interests and disregard humanity's future - there are the majority of citizens who are complacent about the impending crisis so long as they are supplied with essential consumer goods and some luxuries -apathy can be even more harmful than antipathy to the human condition - they are loathe to risk discomfort for the common good of mankind - they are more disposed to risk mankind. -- [Dr. Laurence J. Peter, author THE PETER PLAN, 1975]

 Share / Save    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:45 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Early Indicators:

vested interest 1 an established right that cannot be eliminated, as to some future benefit 2 close involvement in promoting personal advantage 3 [pl] a number of groups cooperating or competing in pursuing selfish goals and exerting controlling influence, esp. the powerful persons and groups that own and control industry, business, etc. -- [Webster's New World Dictionary 3rd College Edition, 1988]

[+ Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:43 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Early Indicators:

... Keynes was one of the founding fathers of the Bretton Woods institutions - the World Bank and the IMF - he, I believe, was driven by the very best of interests - he was very concerned by what had happened during the depression and he was concerned about poverty, but he had no faith in people, in individuals to run their affairs and run the affairs of state - he believed in the need to have a "Guardian Elite" that would do the economic management and design industrial strategies, and so on, that would guide the economies of countries - and this is precisely what the World Bank turned out to be - now the World Bank in particular is virtually, legally unaccountable ... -- [CBC IDEAS, Mar14-1992, Business World, discussion Economist Patricia Adams, exec-dir PROBE INTL, author Third World "Odious Debt"]

[+ Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:40 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Early Indicators:

Paul Volcker questioned by commentator Adam Smith about the future - what was lurking out there, he said when he was the chairman of the Fed he was surprised that other countries continued to lend to us to balance our budget - they lend us as much as we save and that can't go on forever - so what happens if the foreigners cut back their lending to us? we have a weak dollar, higher interest rates, less investment, a vicious cycle - lower productivity, possibly more protectionism, a decline in our international influence ... why does everyone care so much what the Fed and Alan Greenspan think? - it's because the Fed and its monetary policy are the only game in town - Congress and the White House are virtually paralysed - bickering with each other, trading special interest, rudderless, creating deficits so large no one talks about them any more - interest is the larger item on our debt than defence, roads and schools - the Fed has done a good job ... but it was never meant to be this important. -- [PBS NBR commentary, economist Adam Smith, Mar31-1992]

[+ Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:35 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Early Indicators:

... broadening their challenge beyond the business context, Lawrence S. Eagleburger, Deputy Secretary of State, urged the gathered chief executives of major corporations to help shape and lead the new international order - "we are entering a very different world," he reminded the audience, "and there is no way to isolate ourselves from the fast-integrating global market which, increasingly, provides jobs, raw materials, capital and technology for everyone" - the two-day meeting affirmed that the political transformations described by Eagleburger - the transformations that get most of the headlines - are paralleled by equally dramatic business transformations unfolding in and around most companies. -- [Special Advertising Section, Business Leadership In A World Transforming, Business Week, Jan13-1992]

[+ Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:31 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Early Indicators:

"... the primary moving forces in the [stock] market nearly always is the central bank - and so, you can think about Quebec separatism, the Gulf War, the breakup of the Soviet Union, the reunification of Germany, the collapse of the Tokyo Market all these things that seem so important, they are secondary, they are diversions - John Crow (Bank of Canada) is more important than all of these other things - but its not just John Crow, it's John Crow working hand in glove with Alan Greenspan (Federal Reserve), if you like - and Alan Greenspan is the senior partner of that partnership." -- [Technical Market Analyst PICTON DAVIES, editor THE POLYMETRIC REPORT, interview CBC Business World, Mar23-1992]

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:28 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Early Indicators:

"the American people own the country ... few Americans know that 68% of the 4T\$ [deficit] is due and payable in the next five years - we better get down on our knees every night and pray that the Japanese, the Germans and the Arabs keep buying our T [Treasury] Bills - they are not going to do that if they question our credit ratings - these money matters are fundamental - you can't be a superpower if you are broke - if you question it - look at Russia ... we have Congressional and White House gridlock now, if you ever put the people back in charge of this country and make sure they understand the issues, you'll see the White House and Congress like a ballet team pirouetting around the stage getting it done in unison."
-- [H. Ross Perot, PBS ML News Hour, Mar26-1992]

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:25 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Early Imprint:

1. the world as we had known it since the end of WWII was changed in 1989 - in that year, with the impetus leading to the collapse of Soviet Communism, the New World Order - the emergent Global Incorporation of vested business-political interests - had completed its timetable, the use of its Cold War to shape and control the many layers of society we find in the advanced nations today.
2. the common faith of this new order is the same root that has been used throughout history by those backing the governing powers - the SAGE, the "Self-Appointed Guardian Elite" those who provide the life-blood of the corporate body - that faith, the Holy Blood, being Money and the control of it.
3. the power of transNational Capital in this new environment - the New Competitiveness - gives absolute control in all aspects of society to the SAGE with the complete approval and participation of society at large who have been moulded by the religion of nationalism and patriotism - the emotional identity, the cohesive body politic - the religion that has enjoined most other faiths into a supportive role.
4. the use of engineered super-power conflict with its enormous political, financial and military benefits to the ruling body corporate will now be shifted to the emerging sectarian and factional divisions that are appearing as the supposed new freedoms unleash the imprinted personal and group identities - real or imagined - that will constitute the new Common Cause.
5. the New World Order - the control of the new Trilateral Market - Asia, the new Europe and North America with the rest of the world in supportive roles for now, will use the new Common Cause - the resultant systemic inequities and the emotions engendered - as the catalyst of the New Nationalism - the World Corporate Identity.
6. these inequities - the result of manipulated National Governments [party politics] - are the ersatz religion by which those in control abrogate and usurp from all of Humankind the Dominion given to them and for them by God.

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:10 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Early Imprint: (con't)

7. there is no way to understand the present foreign or domestic policies of Japan, the new Europe and the US (the "First World" powers) - JEUS Mammonas, the false messiah Je(s)us, Matt. 6:24 - without recognizing that these policies are primarily a response to the ongoing world economic crisis - this crisis has continued and grown through various phases over the past 15 years: the external debt and inflationary crises of the late 1970s, the world recession of the early 1980s, the supposed boom of the middle 1980s (characterized by the S&L corruption and the 1987 stock market crash) and the protracted stagnation that began in 1988 - the current crisis presents the same dangers as did those that preceded the two world wars earlier in the century.

8. the ruling elites in the First World have responded to the economic crisis by attempting to shift the burden from themselves to the majority of the population, both at home and abroad - this translates into an international program of cutting back social services, expropriating ("privatizing") public assets, lowering wages and eliminating restraints on the exploitation of the environment - this program has different names in different regions and circumstances: "economic shock treatment," "the neoliberal project," "free trade" and "the free market."

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [1:08 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Early Imprint: (con't)

9. an economic program of this nature is unthinkable without political and military measures to counter the resistance it will inevitably engender - examples are: "democratization," in which the international elite uses foreign aid, electoral manipulation and even "democratic coups" to impose compliant regimes throughout the Third World (which now includes the former socialist bloc); "disarmament," which links cosmetic military cutbacks in the advanced sector to massive arms reduction in the rest of the world; "refugee policy," actually a policy of anti-immigrant hysteria.

10. a key component of the First World's foreign policy is the revival of capabilities for military intervention in the Third World - the "proxy wars" of the early 1980s, the 1989 Panama invasion and the 1991 Gulf War were all stages in a progression through which the old colonial powers maneuvered to regain the military dominance they had lost in Vietnam and in other post-colonial wars - the current doctrine of "humanitarian intervention by multinational forces" is just the latest and most hypocritical stage in this bloody progression, witness the Balkans, Kosovo - selective intervention.

11. the economic crisis and the economic and political programs that come in response to it create massive polarization within the world's population - one side of this polarization appears in the rise of rightist groups, of extreme nationalism, religious fanaticism and outright, undisguised fascism - the dangers are obvious: civil wars, genocide, world wars, nuclear destruction. -- [para. 7-11][based on the International Activism Statement, Feb 01, 1994, discussed and adopted by a number of peace and solidarity activists in the US]

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:56 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

The Common Place - A Redefinition of Mankind

The premise of this blog is to document understandings of, interactions with, and responsibilities to the world but also humankind's descent into an era - the endtimes if you will - signifying the event horizon of our civilization and the planet that supports it.

The attempt of vested corporate and political interests to coalesce into a New World Order (media term), growing social malaise and tribalization, pollution and degradation of the Earth's environment, the promise of science, the lack of promise for most of the undeveloped world's people, and the varied quests for spiritual meaning, are some of the indicators that are reported and commented upon within the blog.

Various media and public sources are excerpted and summarized, cohesive and together with personal thoughts and conclusions, to report the events and influences that I believe are leading the world's people to the time of decision -- the material is in no way complete - this is an ongoing work - a lifetime of study remains - it is my wish that all would gather their own commonplace writings (book/blog), to examine themselves, their motivations, their impact on others, and to share that work as a gift, to contribute another building block to the foundation of community, without which none of us will survive.

 [Share / Save](#)    

Posted by mammonmessiah at [12:36 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

[Newer Posts](#) [Older Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

Mammon or Messiah research

Friday, September 25, 2009

Mammon or Messiah Book 1

Mammon or Messiah related content: Category: News and Politics

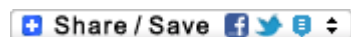
Mammon or Messiah Book 1 <http://www.scribd.com/mammonmessiah>

Mammon or Messiah related content: video's "Zeitgeist" and "Zeitgeist Addendum" by Peter Joseph; the library of video's by Alex Jones; video "Loose Change" and updates; video's "Esoteric Agenda" and "Kymatica"; the video's of Michael Moore; the video series "Ring of Power".

Mammon or Messiah related content: author Jim Marrs "The Rise of the Fourth Reich"; authors Noam Chomsky; Michael Parenti; Edward Said; Jerry Fresia; Jeff Sharlet; Murray Bookchin; Michael Baigent "Holy Blood Holy Grail", "The Messianic Legacy", "Racing Toward Armageddon".

Mammon or Messiah related content: Laurence Gardner "Bloodline of the Holy Grail"; David Ray Griffin "The American Empire and 9/11"; Texe Marrs "Codex Magica"; Daniel Estulin "The True Story of the Bilderberg Group".

Mammon or Messiah related keywords: Knights Templar, British Israel, Anglo-Israel, King Arthur, Merovingian; Annunaki, Nephilim, Magdalene, Freemasonry, Masonry, Illuminati, Crusades, Angels and Demons, Utopia, Shadow Government, Rex Deus



Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:17 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Mammon or Messiah 01-05

Mammon or Messiah Category: Religion and Philosophy

Mammon or Messiah 05 Private-State Over Public-Nation - Mammon's Nation-State Enslavement

<http://www.scribd.com/mammonmessiah>

MM01-MM04 Our Choice of Social Reality - Two Divergent Ways of Life, Social Systemics

<http://www.scribd.com/mammonmessiah>

Disestablishment, War, Gospel, Mythology, Demonology, Idolatry, Jehovah, Slavery, Activism, 9/11, Babel, Income Tax, Hierarchy, False Flag

Charlemagne, SAGE, Graven Image, Incarnation, Constitution, Prejudice, Strawman, Stewardship, Desposyni, Grimm, Possession, Baal, Elijah

Elite, Human Rights, Freedom, America, Ekklesia, Israel, Kingdom of God, Repentance, Mind, Anarchy, Alternative Currency, Federal Reserve

War, Fascism, Communitarian, Community, Apostolic, Church of God, Repentance, Forgiveness, Genocide, Divine Right, Baptism, Corporatism

Mammon, Messiah, Love, Salvation, The Devil, Satan, Evil, Money, Corporation, Christ, Religion, Conspiracy, NWO, Business, Society

[+ Share / Save](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [d](#)

Posted by mammonmessiah at [3:15 PM](#) [0 comments](#) [✉](#)

[Newer Posts](#) [Home](#)

Mammon or Messiah research contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is presented without profit for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.



MM research is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 Unported License](#). "Slidely" by [Deluxe Templates](#).

